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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, PEARLS OF VIEWS
Sunday, June 6, 2004 • 32 pages / vol. 19 / no. 179

Generous family of strangers foster Mangyan orphan

By Madonna T. Virola
INQ Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—When it rains, it pours.

And it's raining grants on the Mangyan orphan Jonjon Borja Quintos, whose dream of becoming a lawyer to help his people just might see realization through the kindness of strangers.

CONTINUED A2

DENR forest park offers refuge in asphalt jungle

By TJ Burgonio

ONE could say that if only for this patch of green, residents of congested Quezon City have still reasons to smile beyond.

There's a mini-forest park, home to a wide variety of indigenous trees, nestled in a sprawling property of the Department of En-

more on A2

Pope to US: Leave Iraq

Bush gets papal rebuke in Vatican visit

CONDEMNED? Gen. Angelino Pascasio Jr. (shown here at the Batasan late Friday night) says that the administration-controlled Congress is "setting us up for the hanging."

FIRST meeting of US President George W. Bush and Pope John Paul II, and already the latter shows first blood over Iraq. Despite the sharp differences between the two world leaders, the men in "cardinal" against the backdrop of the venerable ecclesiastical art of the Vatican.

ROME—Pope John Paul II and anti-war protesters delivered a common message to US President George W. Bush when he visited Rome on Friday—return Iraq to the Iraqis.

As expected, Iraq dominated the agenda in the first meeting between the world's chief protagonist and its smallest ally since the conflict began.

The Pope, who strongly opposed the US-led war in Iraq, told Bush of his concern about the "grave unrest" in the Middle East. He talked for the "speedy return of Iraq's sovereignty."

"It is the evident desire of everyone that this situation now be normalized as quickly as possible with the active participation of the international community and, as can be also, the United Nations organization," the 84-year-old Pontiff said.

Thousands marched across the city toward behind a huge banner reading "No War—Be Bush."

Riot police with shields and batons gathered with small groups of masked protesters, some of whom threw bottles and flares, but there were no reports of serious injuries or major clashes of the sort that marred a G8 summit in Italy in 2001.

But Bush also received an unexpected campaign boost from the leader of the world's most than one billion Catholics when John Paul II praised his defense of "moral values."

However, the Pope told Bush that his three-day visit to Europe, to mark the 60th anniversary of Europe's liberation, and D-Day commemorations in France, came at a time of "great concern" because of serious unrest in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq.

Bush responded by telling the Pope that he would work for "human liberty and human dignity."

He made no direct mention of Iraq or the prison abuse scandal that had angered the Vatican.

Bush, one of whose aides had earlier said would emphasize "things that we do agree about" in the meeting, presented the Pope with his nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"In this great courage to rely on values not afraid to assert strong opinions and opposition. His principled stand for peace and freedom has inspired millions and helped to overcome communism and tyranny," said the presidential.

Pictures of the visit may help

CONTINUED A2

Opposition's new battle plan a secret

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Ira Zamora

MANILA—Every vote, the opposition has devised a battle plan to counter the administration's overwhelming superiority in numbers during the Congressional canvass of votes for president.

It will be "evidence by bounds of time" and will not involve any extra-constitutional method, according to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel told the Inquirer yesterday.

"We can't reveal it until we are ready to spring it, for tactical reasons," Pimentel added.

He said the opposition would unveil its strategy on the floor of Congress, which has begun tabulating the votes for president and vice president cast in the May 10 elections.

Pimentel refused to give any hint of what the opposition would do, saying only: "The Supreme Court is only one remedy. Another mode of redress is through Congress."

A recent Social Weather Station "do not within our vocabulary," he said.

Pimentel did not explain how any opposition move could prosper in a legislative body where they are terribly outnumbered by supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The canvass is being conducted by a 22-member subcommittee dominated pro-administration committee which threw out all opposition objections in the first of the canvassing on Friday night.

The tabulation of the certificates of canvass (CoCs) containing statements of votes began on

CONTINUED A2

Judgment day comes early for 'contemptuous' judge

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUDGMENT Day came early for this judge.

The Supreme Court ordered Judge Jose T. Catalino Jr. Liu Pili to be jailed Third Court Branch 203, who had a traffic violation arrested and detained because he had appreciated the judge's tone of a violation.

The erring judge had already been penalized in the past for punishing motorists' magistrate and other improprieties, the Supreme Court said.

In an en banc decision, the high court fined Catalino Sr. ordering the arrest or bail order Sison, a Manila

CONTINUED A2

Back to school for dropouts Bong, Isko

By Vec Contreras

THEY WON in the May 10 polls despite criticism over their scant academic credentials. Here they rediscovered the value of education and are making up for lost time.

So guess who's joining the ranks of students flocking back to school in the next few days.

Senator-elect Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. made arrangements last week with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in Pasig City for a "weekday" that would guide him through his term ahead.

The DAP is a non-stop outfit that serves as a training center, research base and consultancy firm mainly for government agencies and state universities.

Reelected Manila Councilor Isko Moreno has sent his transcript of records to the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. He looks forward to attending night classes at the PLM law school.

In separate interviews, the two actor-turned-politicians sounded like they were still burning from the campaign stumps on their quest to continue their campaign.

They intend to prove their critics wrong.

"I cannot afford to relax now because many still look down on us," Revilla, 37, told the Inquirer shortly after he met with DAP officials regarding a "tailor-made" course he wanted to take.

The neophyte senator (now Mayor Ramon's office-mate) said he actually completed a "crash course on the Philippine political and regulation system" at the DAP in the last quarter of 2003. He took the course "so that I'll be ready to excel on the floor."

After the elections, he again contacted the DAP for "another treatment" which, according to DAP officials, would enable him to apply his lessons from the earlier course.

"It will prepare me and help me craft my legislative agenda," Revilla said, referring to the workshop.

"I have proven myself to governor of Cavite and as VMI (Metropolitan Regulatory Board) chief, but it's the Senate I'm entering—and I know my limitations and weaknesses," he said.

"Nagsipagaral pa nga (I am still preparing)," continued the man who finished high school in 1982 at Benito Hugo in Los Angeles, California.

Revilla's resume showed that he attended a DAP short course on local governance in 1998, when he was Cavite governor, and does the crash course on the political system last year, when he headed the VMI.

He pointed out, though, that he received up to 20 awards and citations for his performance as local government unit in the 1980-

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Oil prices threaten growth rate

By Dil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

THE 10-YEAR-that-expected 6.0-percent economic growth registered in the first quarter would not be sustained the rest of the year as escalating oil prices would slow down the pace of economic expansion and demand, Malacañang admitted yesterday.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that economic growth—as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) which sums up the market value of all goods produced and services rendered in the country—may likely to fall below 6.4 percent this year due to rising inflation.

The inflation rate rose by 4.7 percent in May this year. Economists expect the barometer of prices of goods and services to climb further beyond the 5 percent mark in the coming months due to the surging price of crude oil in the world market.

Bunye said that while inflation has been manageable, it was expected to have a "tempering effect" on economic growth.

Despite rising inflation, Bunye said the government would still hit the low-end of its GDP full-year target of 6.9 percent, but may below the 6.4 percent growth achieved in the first quarter this year, the country's highest quarterly growth rate since the 7.4 percent recorded in the fourth quarter of 1999.

The government has projected GDP to grow by 6.9 to 7.8 percent this year.

In his report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri had warned about the impact of rising oil prices on demand for the country's exports and on local businessmen's appetite for expansion.

Neri had said that a $10 per barrel increase in the price of crude oil would reduce GDP growth by half a percentage point. But higher exports could offset the impact of high oil prices on GDP growth, he said.

According to Neri, rising inflation, which could force the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to increase interest rates, has made it important for the government to keep its P200 billion budget deficit target and maintain business confidence in the economy.

Despite the recent hikes in pump prices, Malacañang yesterday ruled out putting the local petroleum industry under state regulation anew although the government is helpless in stemming the rise in fuel oil prices.

Bunye said groups calling for an end to oil deregulation were "overreacting" to the roughly P1 per liter increase in oil prices in less than a month which, he said, was due to the skyrocketing prices of crude oil in the world market.

In an interview over DZRH radio, Bunye said that allowing oil industry players to determine pump prices instead of getting authority for selling their goods at fixed rates helped in alleviating the impact of soaring world crude oil prices. "Consumer fuel oil prices would have been higher without oil deregulation," Bunye said.

"We acknowledge the serious repercussions of continuing oil price increases but there are no quick-fix solutions to this global problem," Bunye said.

Bunye admitted that the government had very few options on dictating fuel prices due to the country's dependence on fuel oil imports except to broaden its list of suppliers and to appeal to oil producing countries to increase production.

But he assured the public that the government was well aware of the increasing pressure on prices of basic goods and commodities and transport fares due to higher fuel prices.

"The government is coming up with appropriate measures to prevent a dislocation effect on the prices of basic commodities and public utility services," Bunye said.

These measures range from a tighter watch on retailers and traders who may engage in profiteering and hoarding to boosting productivity, particularly of farm commodities to improve supply.

RP to import more oil from its neighbors

THE PHILIPPINES plans to buy more oil from Russia and its neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia, to deal with the rising price of oil from the Middle East, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

"We are looking at closer sources like our neighbors, Indonesia and Malaysia, and even Russia. We have had initial negotiations from Russia and are hope to increase this," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview.

"We know that our principal source in the Middle East has been affected by violence," leading to higher oil prices, he said.

Bunye did not reveal how much oil the Philippines hoped to import from Russia or how much oil it had imported in the past.

He said the government was trying to keep inflation down in the face of rising oil prices by boosting food production, especially of rice and corn through the cultivation of high-yielding hybrid varieties.

The Department of Trade and Industry was monitoring retailers to make sure they did not take advantage of the oil price hike by engaging in overpricing, Bunye said.

However, Bunye shrugged off calls from leftist groups to repeal an oil deregulation law that removed price controls on fuel products, saying the law was not responsible for the higher oil prices.

"We can see that the real reason [oil] prices are going up is because of the continuing rise in world prices," he said.

Government officials previously said they would lower or abolish import duties for animal feed, soybean and pork products to keep inflation under control despite the upward pressure exerted by higher fuel costs. AFP

Caltex, new players raise pump prices

MAJOR oil player Caltex Philippines Inc. yesterday raised the pump prices of its gasoline, diesel and kerosene products by 90 centavos per liter following the lead of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and three new oil players.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, dealers of Caltex's Havoline Gold, Havoline Silver, regular gasoline, Power Diesel and kerosene started selling these products at pump prices 90 centavos higher per liter.

On Friday night, Shell and new players Saudi Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Inked the prices of their fuel products by the same amount.

Flying V also implemented a price increase but at the higher level of P1.05 per liter for gasoline and diesel.

Yesterday, Total (Philippines) Corp. and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. likewise raised the prices of their fuel products by 90 centavos per liter, at the same time that Caltex's price hike took effect.

Leading oil refiner Petron Corp. has yet to announce its price adjustment as of press time.

This will be sixth time that prices of gasoline have gone up since the start of the year. Abigail L. Llo

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METRO
Editor Alekzandra S. Ulanday

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Visayan 8 9 14 23 24 32

Top cop has birth 'defect'

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

SIEDDIKIE, Chief Supt. Rupert Castro is a true youngin'.

That is, if his claim that he was born on another year is true.

Based on the records of the Philippine Electoral Policy, Castro was born in 1946. That made him 58 years old when he celebrated his birthday on April 19.

Consequently, that put him at the mandatory age of retirement for policemen.

However, since it was the middle of the election period, Mayor Malcolm "Sonny" Tiangco asked Malacañang to extend the two-months his tenure as director of the Central Police District (CPD).

The Palace reportedly approved the extension, which ends 6:00(a) 31.

Officer in charge

On June 1, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) appointed CPD deputy director for administration Cecilio Pelaydo as acting director, Inquirer learned.

But NCRPO spokesperson Sen Bartolomeo said Castro knew the schedule and claimed that there had been a mistake.

According to Bartolomeo, Castro said he could produce a birth certificate issued by the National Statistics Office stating that he was not born in 1946 but in 1948.

With that piece of documentary, Castro is reportedly claiming that he was only 56 years old and was still eligible to serve until next year.

Wow, the NCRPO and the CPD said they had not refused to execute the order.

Wow, the NCRPO and the CPD said they had not refused to execute the order.

At a loss

Bartolomeo told the Inquirer yesterday they had submitted the necessary PDF for Castro.

"We are at a loss as to which birth certificate to follow. We learned it proper for appoint an officer in charge to avoid a leadership vacuum while the matter is under review," Bartolomeo said.

The Muslim called Castro 10 times to get his comment but his phone just kept on ringing. Minutes later, his line was already busy.

Policemen in Camp Rodrigo Gutierrez in Quezon City confirmed almost Castro's birthday was that the police director has another birth certificate to show.

RISING higher and expanding wider, Makati City is looking beyond the Central Business District in terms of development.

Transit for Makati's farthest barangay

By Margaux C. Grey

A MASS transit system connecting the Central Business District to the city's farthest barangay, high-rise apartments for low- to middle-income families, and better social services.

These were developments seen in the blueprint for the grand revitalization of a city once called a "sacrifice zone" that worked its founding 334 years ago on June 1.

Best in Asia

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who has led the city for almost two decades, said he is optimistic that with the redevelopment plans, the country's financial capital would host other local government units and be counted among the competitive cities of Asia.

With "Makati 21," as it bills its 20 in line with the local government's objective to position the city in the 21st century. Binay said they would be strengthening the city's reputation as a hub of business and a destination for tourists.

Major destination

Doing this would spur greater economic growth and position the city in the global market as a major financial and tourist destination.

Apart from enhancing Makati's tourist reputation as an entertainment and shopping district, the city planners are tackling other concrete concerns such as traffic.

Last week, traffic control was held in Ayala Avenue and long-term solutions to the city's traffic problem. The conference also proposed stringent entry requirements and mandatory training to the traffic enforcers.

A traffic advisory would also be set up at the University of Makati to ensure that only qualified enforcer would man the streets of the city, according to Information and Community Relations Inspector Israel Jovello Salgado.

Connecting barangay

The city-wide rail transit system that would connect the CBD to the farthest barangay would boost the development of the city's "inner barangay," he added.

To address housing concerns for both Makati's low-and middle-income residents, Binay said two high-rise condominiums would be built on Kalayaan Avenue in Barangay Guadalupe and in West Rembo.

A long way

Founded on June 1, 1679 as part of Santa Ana de Sapa, the city has indeed come a long way from unimportant to its present status as the country's prime financial district.

"The key to the realization of the revitalization plan is the city's financial stability," said the mayor.

Makati has recorded an unbroken growth in revenues since 1987, and we are recognized as the richest local government unit in the country," Binay added.

Education meets QC employees halfway

QUEZON City Hall employees are going back to school...or shall we say, school is coming to them.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Information Technology and Multimedia (PLMI) that would allow underprivileged city and barangay employees to get a college degree.

To benefit from the program, employees from City Hall and those from Barangay Batasang, which is the city's local community public relations in the program.

Open university

Belmonte explained that local government workers would be enrolled in PLM under the university's Open University system.

City Hall came up with the idea to help city workers who want to finish their education but could not find time because of work.

Under the program, qualified employees will engage in a one-year program that would earn them a bachelor's degree in public administration.

To qualify, City Hall applicants should have served the city government for at least two years. On the other hand, barangay employees, whether elected or appointed, must be at least high school graduates.

Residents, too

Apart from city employees and officials, Quezon City residents are also eligible to apply under the program. Open to them are courses in business management and entrepreneurship.

All courses under the program are accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, Belmonte said.

Classes will be held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Batasang Barangay Hall.

An academic year is equivalent to four terms, with each term costing around P6,000.

Belmonte, in announcing that the Republic signed worldwide to send of courses offered by the Batasang Computer Learning Center.

Established in 1991, Esperza said the program has already helped thousands find jobs in the information technology sector.

Then Sun Inc

A sand bar surfaces after Bay cleanup

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE'S garbage still, but hope springs eternal.

Nature fell but failed to dampen the Manila Bay cleanup project yesterday in mark World Environment Day, with at least 12 tons of debris collected by uniformed participants.

After 24 hours of hard work, a garbage free strip of light sand surfaced several meters by the bayside near the United States Embassy along Roxas Boulevard.

For employees of the Manila's Department of Public Services (DPS) filled up two 12-wheel trucks with bamboo, wooden planks, food wrappers and pieces of rubber and styrofoam, all retrieved from Manila Bay, said Ramiro Arbasto, DPS task force assistant officer in charge.

Doing their job

"We have been cleaning the bay area on a regular basis to maintain its cleanliness, but we still opened up to promenaders and tourists," Arbasto said, adding that was without the World Environment Day celebration. But DPS would have done these job anyway.

The Bayside, with a full view of the famed Manila sunset, was developed by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza into a beautification, with restaurants on up that has been attracting a sizeable tour afternoon and nighttime crowd since last year.

Arbasto said the light was linked to discourage some tight

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Elisea Gozun (with hat), Miss Philippines pageant winner Jennifer Chua, and Secretary Sonia Abaya (r., Tanon (Mario Taguiat (r.) and Manila Bayside sign the pledge of commitment promoting Manila Bay as part of the celebration of World Environment Day. (Edwin Tandoc Jr.)

because participants were hesitant to use the immediate results of their work.

High hopes

"We are encouraged to clean up the bay areas so we are close to it, and there is finally a source of food, smell," he said, adding that manner life appears to have thrived once more.

Atienza said he knows the bay is far from being garbage-free, but he's that the bay is a far cry from its former self.

Shortly before the Bayside was developed, the DPS had collected tons of debris during a tournament keyed in using a backhoe, he added, spreading the volume of garbage dumped in the area.

One of invasive species is Palaneus, noted for its water-sand

Yambao on Malabon fire: Don't look at me

QUEZON City Mayor Mark Allan "Super" Bautista said last yesterday over rumors alleging he had a hand in the fire that razed offices in the second floor of the Malabon City Hall last Tuesday.

"They are saying the fire was set off to cover up anomalous transactions," Bautista said.

"How can that be when important documents in the building are scattered in the public information office just beside the burned department.

The budget office was not damaged, however, because the blaze was stopped by a concrete wall.

The audit and treasurer's offices are in the first floor.

Calling the rumors malicious, Bautista also appealed to "the other camp" and to other "grandstanding opportunists" to just keep quiet.

Bautista lost the mayor's seat to Canete-Oreta.

No comment

The new mayor had refused to comment on the incident, apart from stating that he would just await the results of the ongoing investigation of the fire.

Fire Senior Chief Rodrigo Aurea and the National Capital Region Bureau of Fire Protection had blamed Task Force Unseat, manned by regional officials, to undertake the probe.

Business back to normal

Officials in the city hall had been closed but officials expressed confidence to normalize business soon.

But sensitive offices in the first floor and basement of them in the city administration would also set up.

Bautista said that only the right wing of the second floor, where damage was worst, would be off limits to the public, but the first and second floors would be open on Monday.

Water damage

Employees of the business permits and license office, which showed minimal damage, were also cleaning their workplace yesterday.

The office had been separated the other day after its walls had been damaged by water from firemen's hoses.

Bautista said the incoming administration would understand the urgent in city hall because he only had three weeks left in his term. Edwin Tandoc Jr.

"I AM a Filipino citizen," declares Naval Secretary General Bilbao at the Navotas headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Saturday. He does his passport in dispute Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's allegation that he's a Canadian citizen. CHRIS ISLANDS

'I'm not a Canadian citizen, I've been a Filipino all my life'

By Philip C. Tubeza

"I'M 200% a Filipino all my life," Guillermo "Bill" Lee, National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) secretary general, made the assertion yesterday to debunk Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s claim that he was a Canadian citizen and, thus, was not eligible to participate in Philippine political affairs.

Lee made the statement at a press conference at Namfrel headquarters in Mandaluyong as the private election watchdog was wrapping up its affairs with its last update or "seventy-five last" report on the outcome of the May 10 election.

Namfrel would no longer be releasing updates on its count of election returns but would name one with a "terminal report" before June 20 or its final tally of votes.

Lee produced his Philippine passport, which showed that he was born in Cabanatuan City on June 13, 2000. He said he went there only for a visit.

"I'm the record, I am a naturalborn Filipino citizen. I carry a Philippine passport," said Lee, adding that his parents were Filipinos.

Lee said that he was also a registered voter and that he voted last May 10 in precinct 0288-A at Barrio Inchauti in San Juan.

He said he did not know where Pimentel got the Alien Certificate of Registration number and his migration Certificate of Residence that the senator claimed belonged to Lee.

Hurting

For his part, Namfrel Chairman Corazon Jr. said he was hurt by Pimentel's charge that he was biased in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo and that this partisanship had tarnished Namfrel's reputation.

Corazon said it felt like he had been "stabbed" in the back when he read Pimentel's harsh words for him in the newspapers.

Pimentel had accused Corazon of suppressing 10s Macapagal's election bid and even providing the administration party with leaked source that had lots of names and persons on it.

But Lee said it was actually Corazon's son, Jose "Joey" Corazon Jr., who had "personally" leaked the list/database to the administration party. He said the younger Corazon also obtained some limited votes in the opposition.

Corazon said he was hurt because he had known Pimentel since the days of the Marcos dictatorship when they had both fought for freedom.

To tell truth

He said he told Pimentel of his feelings and the latter answered that he (Pimentel) had to tell the people the truth.

Asked if he was satisfied with Pimentel's answer, Corazon said: "I don't like to (quibble.) I suppose, The Lord's Prayer tells us to forgive those who trespass against us."

Opposition's new battle plan a secret

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ly on Friday night after nine days of debates, and will resume on interpellations.

"They're planning a scenario where Gloria will be proclaimed," Pimentel said. "They will do everything to prevent any objection raised by the opposition."

Set up for a hanging

"The administration is setting us up for a hanging."

Pimentel said he had a conversation with Pro the other night and "he wants the proceedings to go forward with deliberate speed.

"He wants us to exhaust all legal remedies and discourage them from taking the law into their own hands," the senator said.

Pimentel and the opposition could agree to listen to 15 from 25 of the number of CoCs it would question.

"We can probably reduce that a little more. On the assumption that we can consume one whole day of eight hours' work, and at the rate of two CoCs a day, we can finish it in seven and a half days."

Lawyers for 10s Macapagal have accused the opposition of resorting to dilatory tactics to prevent the proclamation of a winner by June 30, when 10s Macapagal's term ends.

Nul-Mo Tangere

Carmen economics chair and Hacienda Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez dismissed that he would use allies under delays in the tabulation when he rejected a request from opposition lawyers Sixto Brillantes and Salvador Panelo to physically examine the features of the CoC from Lusa for its authenticity.

Solicitor Sen. Francis Tatad also accidentally referred to Comelec chairman of the request as the "touch me not or nuh me tangere ruling."

Nuh-Mo Tangere-nahm nang bang bunakan—ni Tatadnit nang papel (What are we afraid of about touching the document, that it will be ruined?" Barzaga said subtly.

Mitigating renewal is appeal to the opposition to skip the theories and yield to the will of the people.

"The opposition must bow to the law and reason or risk isolation from the mainstream of democratic politics," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Message from court

He said that the Supreme Court, by ignoring an opposition plea to halt the canvass, "sent a strong message in defense of the contemptuous and democratic process."

The high court is to deliberate on Tuesday the petition of the Brillantes by Magdalenang Pilipino questioning the legality of the canvassing committee.

"The Filipino people have made their decision and further efforts to hold the people's will hostage are a clear travesty of justice," Bunye added.

House leaders yesterday expressed confidence the Supreme Court would uphold the calamitous casualty of the joint canvassing committee.

"It is unthinkable for the court to stop the canvass," Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marivelc Andamon, another member of the canvassing committee, said he was confident that the court would junk the petition for lack of basis.

"Now that we have reached the actual counting phase, I don't think the Supreme Court would close on the canvass," he added.

Ati Macapagal was leading by 2,311 votes in 2,498 based on the first CoCs from absentee voting centers in Cotabato, Lanao, Mindanao and the Northern cum vessel on Friday night.

Namfrel tally

Ati Macapagal maintained her lead over the actor in the unofficial tally released by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) at 6 p.m.

Namfrel had Ati Macapagal with 9,674, 169 votes, while the actor 9,138, 999. Sen. Nur-Mi Lanao had 2,687, 574, former Sen. Raul Roco 1,727,995 and reporter Eddie Villanueva 1,326,925.

Sen. Noli de Castro led in the vice presidential race with 11,102,929 votes, followed by Loren Legarda had 10,876,333 and Senator Aquino 772,833.

The Namfrel tally counted 171,295 precincts or 79.21 percent of the country's 216,282 precincts.

With reports from Cynthia D. Rubeta and Philip Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL and vice presidential candidates' representatives closely examine the certificates of canvass from five ballot boxes coming from absentee voting centers abroad. ERIK DE CASTRO

Back to school for dropouts . . .

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They included a recognition from US and international law enforcement bodies for his counterpiracy against illegal drugs and video piracy.

'Give us a chance'

"Mismanaki! Just give determination [We are trying to do our best]. Just give us a chance," said Revilla. His father, Ramon Jr., was also a popular movie star who made it to the Senate despite doubts about his intellectual merits.

BAP senior vice president Tony Kalaw said Revilla and his staff would undergo a set of "in-the-job training" in preparation for their formal duties. The academy will also help them decide which legislative areas to prioritize.

Revilla and company will attend a series of sessions that will include "mentoring activities, briefings of Senate deliberations" and "holding mock sessions" before he better understand public matters, conduct and procedures, Senate Legislative-Executive Development Office head Dr. Ledivina V. Cariño said.

Cariño, a professor at the UP Law Center, said Court of Appeals Justice Lucas Bersamin investigates the case. After reviewing the evidence, Bersamin recommended that the judge be admonished and warned.

The court disagreed and ruled that the contempt charge Castillo slapped against Sison was in order. But by apprehending the judge's son. "The act of a judge in citing a person in contempt of court in a manner which smacks of retaliation, or in the case at bar, to application of the principle of the . . . Code of Judicial Conduct," the SC said.

"The irresponsible or improper conduct of judges erodes public confidence in the judiciary; as such, a judge must avoid all impropriety and the appearance thereof," it added.

Judgment day comes early for 'contemptuous' judge

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Disciplinary authority Castillo ordered an immediate contempt charge. Castillo is now barred from ever serving in government and was stripped of all retirement benefits except his earned leave credits.

"The very delicate function of administering justice demands that a judge should conduct himself at all times in a manner which would engender the trust and confidence of the people, for he is the visible representation of the law," the court said.

"A judge should never allow himself to be moved by pride, prejudice, passion, or partisanship in the performance of his duties," it added.

The court said Castillo should not have ordered Sison's arrest and detention since the incident involved his own son, and "the matter was very personal to him."

It was also the last straw since the court had warned him in the past for other improprieties. Castillo had been fined P20,000 for punching another judge and another P30,000 for gross ignorance of procedural law and serious scandalous delay in the issuance of an order of execution.

"Your record, (Sison's case) falls under 'similar conduct,' which the court avowed would be dealt more severely if repeated, and of which (Castillo) was duly warned," the high court said.

Traffic violation

Sison apprehended Castillo son, Jose B. Castillo III, on Sept. 8, 1999 for motorcycle no-no in Mandaluyong.

The younger Castillo was ordered to appear in the judge's son and his official driver. He showed his father's ruling card and asked the traffic enforcers to let him go.

The latter would his ground, allegedly saying: "Bitang Judge, Judge Castillo sa akin, kaliput nya ubuguin ang lasalid ko (Judge Castillo is mine, he's my in-law. Yesterday, I served a lawyer)." By their confirmation the younger Castillo's driver's license.

This apparently infuriated the judge, who ordered Sison's arrest. Although Dr. Sison's husband happened in Mandaluyong, he ordered Sison to appear before his son to answer an indirect contempt charge.

Sison was arrested at around 8 p.m. on Sept. 28, 1999 and brought to the La Pilar City Jail. He appeared before Castillo the following day and was released that afternoon after he was allegedly forced to admit that he had committed a mistake when he apprehended the judge's son.

Sison filed a complaint against Castillo before the high court on Oct. 12, 1999 but later recanted.

Appalling

However, the tribunal pursued his inquiry into the judge's conduct and had Court of Appeals Justice Lucas Bersamin investigate the case. After reviewing the evidence, Bersamin recommended that the judge be admonished and warned.

The court disagreed and ruled that the contempt charge Castillo slapped against Sison was in order. But by apprehending the judge's son. "The act of a judge in citing a person in contempt of court in a manner which smacks of retaliation, or in the case at bar, to application of the principle of the . . . Code of Judicial Conduct," the SC said.

"The irresponsible or improper conduct of judges erodes public confidence in the judiciary; as such, a judge must avoid all impropriety and the appearance thereof," it added.

Dropout to lawmaker

Before his rise as a "Pare's Fenomenal" star, even as he early '90s, "I was a hanayan (you expect pushing carts in the streets of Manila. Later on, I promised myself and became a graduate of law."

He was earning P6.6 a day driving a pedicab and studying to become a ship captain at the Philippine Maritime Institute when a friend manager "discovered" him in 1992.

He got aside his seafaring plans and focused first on raising money as an entertainer.

In 1995, he ran for the 1st second and got elected to his first term. He has since served as councilor, vice mayor, mayor and, recently, representative of Laguna's 3rd district.

Future in law

Later, Mendoza enrolled in an "open university" program offered by a management school and attended classes conducted within city hall premises. He maintained over 85 billion local government personnel. He finished the two-year course last year.

When reached by the Inquirer, he had just attended the transcript from the management course to the PLM for evaluation, saying he would make the grade and send himself of the "after 5 p.m." law classes offered by the university.

"I've realized that I need this because without bigtitle (Undersecretary) behind, I can't really take advantage of/be university's schedule which allows working governmental employees and elected officials like me to study after office hours," he said.

He said a degree would serve him well for any future responsibilities, future mandates. So that later on wala nang masabilip ang mga tao (so no one can say anything against me)."

Harvard beckons

Becoming a full-fledged lawyer someday may well serve as his "fall-back" profession should the political career come to an end.

Revilla, after the DBP workshop, is also considering pursuing "short courses in Harvard" when new Congress goes into recess.

As a step, Mendoza is a step ahead of Revilla in their quest for higher learning to meet the demands of public office and, hopefully, silence the critics.

The young senator scoffed. "I don't mind [Mendoza's] becoming a star but never expected this. It wasn't really in my plans. Had I known, I would have taken up law class."

Party-list group to target Cojuangco farm in Congress

By Veli Corpuz

A MILITANT party-list group will make its debut in the 13th Congress by calling for a scrutiny of the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and its 14-year-old "corporate agrarian reform" scheme which offers stock options to farm workers instead of giving them their own lands to till.

The left-leaning Bayan Muna said Congress should review HLI's Stock Distribution Option or SDO scheme to see whether it had implanted the list of farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The 6,400 farmer-beneficiaries in Tarlac have five Cojuangco companies, namely, the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, Tarlac Development Corp., Jose Cojuangco & Sons Inc., Luisita Marketing Corp. and Tarlac Fruit Dev't Corp., the group noted.

The CARP allows "non-land transfer schemes" like the SDO as an alternative to dividing real corporate landholdings used for large-scale farm production.

At a media forum yesterday, AnakPawis Representative-elect Rafael Mariano denounced the SDO as "anti-peasant" and "a legal maneuver by the Cojuangcos to evade physical land distribution."

It also allowed the powerful family related industries Senate President Corazon C. Aquino to "dictate" the level of income of the farmer-stock holders, he said.

The scheme was put in place during the Aquino administration's first. Under the SDO, farmers were issued corporate stocks and recognized as "co-owners" of Luisita. The farmers' ownership shares of stock according to the amount of work they render in the farm or their number of "man-days."

But Mariano noted that the HLI management still determines "who will work and when," and cited complaints that some farmers were being allowed to work in the farm only "once a week."

HLI workers had also blamed their diminishing man-days on the increasing mechanization of farm operations, he said.

COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

For the third year, GMA Network Inc. is the exclusive TV partner of the Inquirer seminar series which brings together top media practitioners and students to discuss media issues. The first conference is "Media Mergers: Diversified Media in Synergy." Interested applicants may visit www.inquirerseminarseries.com. In photo are (from left) GMA Network officer-in-charge for corporate communications Bert Pasquel, Inquirer assistant vice president for strategic marketing communications Celine Pialago, GMA Network chairman and CEO Felipe Gozon, Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and GMA Network vice president for internal affairs-corporate communication Dix Arroyo

Signature lack delays Padaca proclamation

By Martin P. Martel

THE fate of the opposite votes in the hotly contested Iloilo gubernatorial race now rests with Election Commissioner Rufino Javier.

In 2-1 ruling, the Commission on Elections 1st Division issued a resolution ordering the Iloilo provincial board of canvassers to reconvene and proclaim Marcelo Grano Padaca as the new governor.

However, it was learned yesterday that under Comelec rules, considering cannot be promulgated unless it is signed by all members of the 5-member division.

Two members of the 1st Division—Resurreccion Borra and Virgilio Garcillano—have already signed the resolution but Javier, who chairs the three-member division, has yet to sign it.

Without Commissioner Javier's signature, the resolution cannot be promulgated because under the rules, all members of the division must sign it for it to be promulgated," Comelec Executive Director Maximiano Asuncion told reporters yesterday.

Last Friday, Borra expressed confidence that the resolution would be promulgated on Monday, stating that he had talked to Javier, who had told him that a separate concurring opinion would accompany the latter's signature.

Padaca was leading over incumbent Governor Gov. Niemfilo Jr. by more than 44,000 votes and expected to be proclaimed winner when the contents of votes was scraped after Tez had filed an election protest before the Comelec.

Tez filed a disqualification case against Padaca before the provincial election supervisor on May 11. Another case was filed before the Comelec head office in Intramuros alleging that Padaca had used state resources during the campaign.

Laarni not living in estate—Erap

By Armand N. Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada denied reports that one of his undersecretaries, former reelist Lauini Enriquez, was living in his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, located minutes the road from the camp where he is detained.

In a telephone interview, Estrada lashed out at Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio for making that claim in open court when he allegedly had no evidence.

"I vehemently deny that claim. Laarni does not stay there," Estrada said from his cell at Camp Capinpin, which is about a hundred meters from his estate.

Villa-Ignacio had made the claim regarding Enriquez at a fundraising hearing on Friday occasioned from Estrada asking to be allowed to attend a party at the Tanay estate today to celebrate the victory of his son, newly elected senator, Jinggoy Estrada, and the birthday of his wife, Sen. Loi Estrada.

The Sandiganbayan special division granted the motion amid strong objections from prosecution lawyers, who said the reason for Estrada's latest pass was "capricious."

They said Estrada's enemies with may not even attend the celebration.

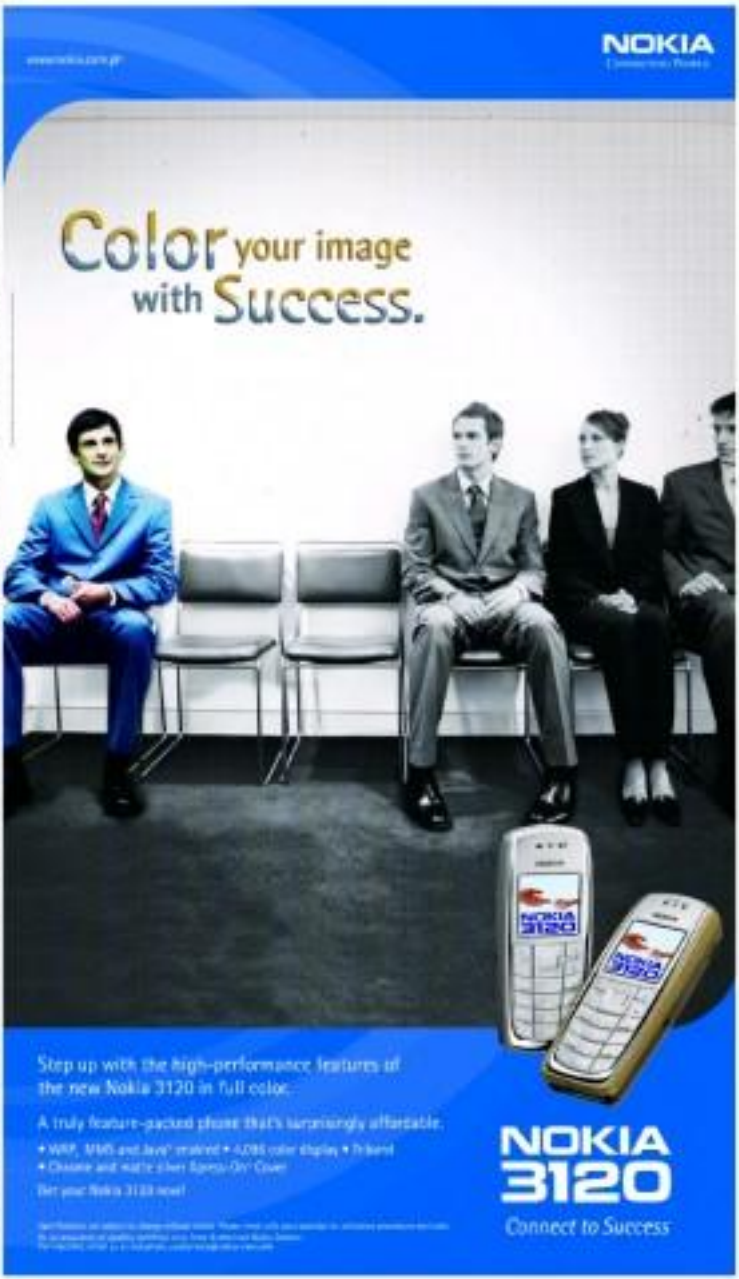
"It is common knowledge that Laarni Enriquez is residing in the said house," said Villa-Ignacio, adding that given the "situation," it was unlikely that Senator Estrada would be attending the thanksgiving mass and party at the estate.

Asked about the source of his information on Enriquez, Villa-Ignacio said it was "firsthand," he got from reliable sources.

He also said that a recent picture showing Estrada with Enriquez and their children published by "ABS" entertainment magazine confirmed reports that Enriquez and the children were staying at the said house.

Estrada said that Enriquez lives, but not in Enriquez, was staying at his detention cooler from time to time.

Contrary to Villa-Ignacio's claim that the picture was taken at the rest house, Estrada said the photo was actually taken at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he was till declared fever.



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Cops go on alert for school opening

By Alcuin Papa

STOP BAD BREATH NOW!

THE 175,000-strong Philippine National Police have been placed on nationwide alert for the opening of classes all over the country tomorrow.

Director Avelino Razon Jr., PNP director for operations, issued a memorandum to all 17 police regional offices yesterday "to maintain the heightened alertness in their respective areas of responsibility."

"The measure aims to ensure the operational readiness of police units in responding to peace and order concerns, including threats from criminal elements who may take advantage of the situation," Razon said.

Of major concern are street crimes such as snatching, pick pocketing, petty theft, holdups and robbery, he said.

Razon said police patrols in school areas would look out for petty criminals, drug trafficking and violent street gangs.

Aside last month's local police alerts have been coordinating with school administrators and education officials to ensure the safety and security of students.

In Metro Manila, the entire 16,000-man police force of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is on police duty. Leaves will be limited in crowded areas to conduct foot, mobile and police visibility patrols.

With the Metro Manila Development Authority, the NCRPO's Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG) will lead traffic management operations in the vicinity of schools, particularly in the University Belt to make sure traffic flows smoothly, Razon said.

The PNP will also deploy policemen in seaports, airports and bus terminals in anticipation of the heavy volume of passengers arriving from the provinces.

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Palace backs 'bridge program' despite parents' complaints

By Gil Cabuz-ungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG strongly supports the Department of Education's controversial "bridge program" which would put ill-prepared elementary graduates through one extra year of school in order to beef up their skills, despite grumbling from parents weary of rising education costs.

In an interview over DZRH radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that while the bridge program might be expensive for some parents, it would improve their children's chances for employment.

Misbehaving also cited the results of the recent High School Readiness Test where only half of the 1.4 million public school students were deemed ready for high school despite the four runoff years of elementary. Highlighting the poor quality of the system's elementary graduates.

Bunye said a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations showed that 93 percent of parents approved of the bridge program.

Hesitant at first

The President is prepared to pour in more funds for teachers' wages and educational support facilities to ensure that the bridge program would not impose "financial burden on parents," Bunye said.

In the beginning, even Deped officials were hesitant to push for the bridge program, admitted Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo in an interview.

"There was a lot of soul-searching. We don't have 100 percent support, but we have to do this," she said.

The idea of adding a year to the current 10-year basic education had been introduced before, but it always failed because of public resistance. Parents did not want the financial burden of having their children stay in school longer. Youth groups were worried about their additional load. The unions were reluctant because they would have to train more teachers.

With the additional year in school, many were worried about being ridiculed by their peers.

"But what is popular is not always right," said Lolita Andrada, head of the Deped's Bureau of Secondary Education, which developed the bridge program curriculum.

She said incoming freshmen in public high schools lacked the "higher learning skills" needed for high school and college. The current 10HY taken by the year's incoming freshmen proved this.

Of those who took the test, 93 percent scored less than 45 in the 90-item test on elementary English, Science and Math.

That meant that 1.3 million of the 1.4 million incoming freshmen had not mastered their elementary subjects and, thus, were likely to fail high school.

"How can we blame us for doing this?" asked Hidalgo, citing the poor test scores.

The Deped, however, admitted the "passing mark" to 37 (instead of 45) as that only 700,000 of the incoming freshmen would have to go through the bridge program. The rest would go straight to regular high school.

Skin the bullet

Education Secretary Guillermo de Jesus, who sanctioned the pilot test that two years ago, is determined to bite the bullet and push through with the program despite protests.

He was recently reinvented to defend the program before the Court of Appeals, after a teachers' party-list group had sought a temporary restraining order.

Hidalgo said that without Dr. Jesus' determination, the program might again have been sidetracked.

Undersecretary Jose Luis Gascon, who came to the Deped with Dr. Jesus, said they could no longer allow students to move on to high school if they were not prepared for it.

"Parents may not like it, but their children need the extra year of tutorial on the basic subjects of English, Science and Math. The purpose is to give our learners a better chance, a better future," Gascon said.

The Coordinating Council of Private Education Associations (COCOPEA), composed of some 2,500 private schools, colleges and universities, believes the Deped's bridge program will greatly improve the quality of education in the Philippines.

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Ombudsman wants smart grads to fight gov't graft

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The Office of the Ombudsman wants you to help strengthen its investigation and deal long-term.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said his office has only 57 graft investigators combing over 1.5 million government officials and employees, noting that this was a far cry from Hong Kong's famed Independent Commission Against Graft (ICAC) which has 800 investigators in a bureaucracy of 175,000.

Consultant

The Philippines has begun of exploring the work of the ICAC, which has been studied with adding to Hong Kong of graft. It's founding head, Tony Kwok, serves as a consultant of the Philippine government's Lifestyle Check Coalition.

"We need to create an investigative unit to gather evidence. We need to build up the investigative capability of the Ombudsman," said Marcelo, who intends to recruit 50 graft investigators over the next two months and another 200 later.

He said the moral, the government has had limited success in fighting graft is that it has too many investigative agencies with overlapping functions and not a show of strong graft investigators.

Investigation

Like the Ombudsman and the fiscal's offices, he said many of the investigators graduates are content just to receive complaints and evidence from complainants. It is time their investigators went out in the field and did their own investigation, Marcelo said.

Marcelo said his office would also seek the help of media organizations like television stations and newspapers which have been doing their own graft investigations.

"We don't have to reinvent the wheel," said Marcelo, adding that it would be good if its investigators get initial leads like people the administration's policies on the act of doubting and documenting instances of graft by government personnel.

"We have an existing program on this but the media have been doing that for years. We can profit from their experience," he said.

Micro-cameras

He said he was particularly interested in learning how the media use micro-cameras or the "sweep-and" operations.

Marcelo said photos of government officials lining in cabinet boxes, distinguishing one playing in casinos or mobile hitting bathrooms or appearing to be taking bribe make for "compelling evidence."

He said the Ombudsman's office will also seek P5 million to acquire intelligence hardware/surveillance equipment to catch grafters in government. Arnaldo S. Monsod

THE LUNGS of a polluted metropolis get fresh breathing space in the DENR mini forest park along East Avenue beside the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas central office in Quezon City. Open everyday except Sunday.

WOODED area in the middle of the asphalt jungle comes as a refreshing surprise for weary commuters. The DENR plans to transform the park into a forest of indigenous species and flowering trees of the Philippines. jess escosio

Pope to US... DENR forest park offers refuge in asphalt jungle

From page A1

nese Catholic women to Bush's November reelection bid.

On the streets, things were not quite as cordial but Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's statement that anti-war demos would turn violent proved largely unfounded.

Switzerland, who has been a staunch ally of Bush, said the demonstrations against the US leader had been "a flop" and had attracted only a few thousand protesters.

The organizers of the march said 200,000 people participated. Police put the number at 23,000.

Protesters kept away

Fears of a repeat of the riots/mass that marred a 1981 visit by Genoa in July 2001 had led Italy to bolster security massively.

"People were frightened," said Monica, a 20-year-old student from Turin. "With thousands of police, people were scared it would be like Genoa."

A few masked protesters threw bottles at riot police and skirmished with other protesters, while others blocked traffic on Aurelian slight. In Rome and dotted dispute on walls. One group carried an inscription by Bin Laden with a message to Bush.

The protesters were kept away from Bush, whose motorcade of around 20 vehicles swept past lines of riot police.

3 Italian hostages

A video message in the week from a group holding three Italian hostages in Iraq calling for a massive demonstration against Bush may have deterred many from joining the march.

Most Italians opposed last year's invasion of Iraq and many sent home to withdraw its 3,700 troops stationed there, a move Berlusconi's government has rejected.

"I'm here to show my revulsion of war. Neither Bush and his servant Berlusconi," said Giorgio Bonfiglio, a 25-year-old student from Pescara who was carrying an Iraqi flag.

"Bush is presenting himself as a liberator, when it is the total opposite. It's what he is," a student identifying herself only as Francesca said.

Bush later held a session at the Atlantico Centre, one of over of the Vatican's World War II massacres in Italy.

Catholic vote

However, the highlights of Bush's visit to Rome was his meeting with the Pope, a valuable opportunity to woo the important Catholic and Hispanic vote ahead of November's presidential election.

But it was clear the meeting, while cordial, did little to close up deep differences over Iraq.

While encouraging Bush to give back Iraq to its citizens as soon as possible, John Paul II also implicitly condemned the recently revealed abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers in Iraq, referring to "deplorable events" which had "exploited the frail and religious consciences of all, and made more difficult a serene and confident concentration in shared human values."

Alessandra Mussolini, grandchild of Italy's wartime dictator Benito Mussolini, said Bush's visit was inappropriate and publicity must for Berlusconi before European elections.

"The US president has also come at a delicate time while the negotiations to free the Italian hostages are underway," Mussolini said, referring to the kidnapping.

Bush's biggest gesture his weekend trip—which taken him away from a political storm in Washington after the resignation of the head of the CIA—will be to try to win support for the creation of a constitution endorsing Iraq's executive government. Reuters, AFP

From page A1

recruitment and National Secretariat along Tuazy East Avenue. It offers a bit of peace and quiet amid the city's noise, as well as a breath of fresh air amid the smog.

A solid under the soil shade of clumps of trees lining the footpaths uneven with rare flowers and leaves is soothing. If not therapeutic. It's even possible to ignore the roar of motor vehicles from outside.

The mini-forest park, located inside the National Ecology Center and beside the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas central office, is open every day except Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no entrance fee.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, whose agencies had launched together to develop the park, formally opened its doors to the public last Friday.

The event was held a day before the celebration of World Environment Day yesterday June has been declared Philippine environment month.

"We want to encourage people to come and enjoy it as a regular park. We're making sure that we keep it as natural as possible. So, we're really enriching it by planting more trees," Gozun said.

"Where the people can benefit from the trees outdoors, we can't engage them to help us [in environmental protection]," she said.

Breathing room

A forest park is precisely what residents of the congested city need, Buenaventura noted, saying:

"We need breathing room for the city life need a haven that will provide oxygen."

The park can also serve as "habitat of the last remnant of the remaining forest species in the metropolis," added Mario Sabastian, director of the Environmental Management Bureau National Capital Region.

The wooded area was originally a nursery of the DENR's Region 4 employees before it was abandoned and informal settlers moved in.

In April last year, the DENR and the Bangko Sentral agreed to restore the wooded area from the 30 households that had settled there, and turn it into a forest park.

Wish to carve a park out of the neglected area began soon after the settlers were relocated to Montalban, Rizal. The Bangko Sentral earmarked some P1.9 million for the project.

Educational

A walk around the park, which has yet to be completely developed, will prove to be not only recreational but also educational, Gozun said.

The trees, for example, are labeled according to their kind.

"We're paying attention to planting more indigenous trees because we have a tendency to plant exotic trees. That's why the children don't know Philippine trees," Gozun said.

Most of the existing trees in the park—like rosepod, palomaria, ipil-ipil and mahogany—are non-native species. They will eventually overmature and die, and will be replaced with indigenous and endemic species.

"Ultimately, this park will be transformed into a park of all indigenous species and flowering trees of the Philippines," said DENR regional executive director Gois Davis.

Closing the loop

And during the dry months, the trees and plants in the park will be watered with the Bangko Sentral's treated waste water.

"That's closing the loop. [The park] is not in an environmental. It's not in nature," Buenaventura said.

The park is also using interlocking blocks for the footpaths to allow rainwater to seep into the ground and reach the aquifers, she said, adding:

"It's a showcase of how developments should be beyond being a park."

Plans are also afoot to showcase in the park such technologies as the Department of Science and Technology's bio-enzyme, which is used to turn biodegradable garbage into compost.

"It's important that the concessionaires and local government units have somewhere to go where the ambiance is good ... and use for themselves what they can do to raise awareness on the subjects of our problems," Gozun said.

Generous family of strangers ...

From page A1

The story of Banjo, who speaks and understands only three special words, from the Tagbilaran high school has blank, has touched hearts readers here and overseas, including Baguio, New York—even far-off Samoa.

On April 27 alone, the day his story was published in the Inquirer, the missionary nun serving as his devoted guardian received the phone calls offering assistance. There were 58 calls the following day.

"People were asking how they could be of help," Sr. Lilia Fronda said, adding: "The media project to embellish calls."

She said she had received 200 such calls as of May 27. Until today, she continues one or two calls daily.

Banjo, who has lost both his parents and his 11 siblings to varying illnesses and medical conditions, said he was fully approved "the value of education and being a model to others."

He said he was surprised at the response to his story. Still, he said, he was happy that more people had come to realize that the Mangyan had potential but could not afford schooling.

"There's hope for the poor," Banjo said. "I never realize that all that is happening to my life has a reason. I have a mission for my fellow Mangyan."

A grateful Fronda said: "Those are all God's blessings."

She said the financial assistance amounting to P130,000 had been deposited in the "Banjo Quirino Trust Fund" in rural bank.

The money, to be managed by Fronda's order, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, will ensure Banjo's education.

"Every cent will be accounted for. We will submit receipts to sponsors," Fronda said.

BANJO QUIRINO with guardian, missionary Sister Lilia Fronda. An unpowering of generosity from donors here and abroad will send the orphan to college with plenty to spare to help his fellow Mangyans.

Inspiration

Of the hundreds readers who were moved by Banjo's story one advised that he serves as an inspiring model to tribal people.

A Filipino physician based in the United States wrote that he couples a nursing course and work there so he could help his people with the money he would earn.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy also [illegible] said he should contact the military.

The nun said she has had four scanned Banjo's story by e-mail to a group of military officers, and that PMAers would sponsor everything.

Fronda was surprised to see reporters here. But she politely said: "It is not in the culture of the Mangyan to hold a limelight."

Toby Pierres, married to a businessman, personally donated P35,000 and 10 rechargeable flashlights for Fronda's nursery. Dolan, an environmental group that she had set up among the Mangyan in Bin. Cruz.

Dr. Tagumi Thelma Ramos of the Makati Medical Center gave a check for P15,000.

Tess Jacques, Mina and Anna Herrera, happy over Banjo's dream of becoming a lawyer, deposited P10,000 in his account.

The Card Association in San Pablo City said it was willing to give Banjo pocket money of P6,000 per month.

Lolita Hung, a mother, said she would provide him a monthly allowance of P800 throughout his studies.

Nuns and lawyers

Three nuns in Davao said they would pray for Banjo.

A lawyer in Cebu said he would contact other lawyers who could help. A total of 18 lawyers, including Leo Barayo, spokesperson of Sen. Nene Lacson, phoned.

A graduate of the Immaculate Conception Academy in Kuala, Manila, a former ICA alumni in good faith for Banjo.

A businessman, who requested anonymity, met with Fronda and Banjo at a restaurant in Manila and handed over P100,000.

Another businessman with offices in Makati and Cebu deposited P6,000 in Banjo's account. Ding Bean sent P3,000.

A Filipino working in Japan pledged cash.

A Singapore-based friend of Gumabon-on Lagrain Panay, of the National Commission for Indigenous People, said he wished to meet with Banjo during his planned visit to the Philippines.

Just recently, another businessman deposited P14,000. Mel Tapas told Banjo: "Give your love as it is give justice to the opportunities given you."

Local school

Despite the opportunities to study in Manila and abroad, Banjo, under Fronda's guidance, has chosen to pursue an undergraduate degree in education (major in mathematics, minor in English) at the Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC).

The decision is intended to keep him in touch with Mangyan culture and customs, as he continues college training at the Mount Tabor Formation Center for Mangyan students.

Also, he has been traumatized by an incident at a nightclub in Manila, where he was brought by a reporter. The reporter got drunk and was subsequently taken by police, leaving Banjo stumbling in a corner of the nightclub.

Banjo will be housed near the Mangyan Mission Office, which will supervise the scholarship grant that he has received from the Ayala Foundation.

Under the grant, he is required to maintain an average of 85 percent.

The benefactors also hoped the first Mangyan lawyer, Tatoma Evangelista, with his education.

In a number of a tribal community, Banjo is confided to a diocese at the DWCC.

Dr. Rene Celestar of the DWCC said the young man would be able to avail himself of enrichment programs for indigenous people, which has been a commitment of the school.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 6, 2004
Trinity Sunday

1st Reading: Wis 8:22-31

Yahweh created me first, as the beginning of his works. He formed me from of old, long ages, even before the earth. The abysses did not exist when I was born, the springs of the waters had not gushed forth, the mountains were not yet set in their mighty mass, before I was born the hills. when I was born before he made the earth or its countryside, or the first grains of the world's dust. I was there when he made the skies and drew that earth's compass on the abyss, when he formed the clouds above and made the springs of the ocean overflow; when he made the sea set its limit, that it might not overflow. When he laid the foundations of the earth, I was close beside him, the delight of his works, and I was his daily delight, forever playing in his presence, playing throughout the world and delighting to be with the sons of men.

Responsorial Psalm: Dan 3:52-56

Responsorial Psalm: Dan 3:52-56

By faith we have received our righteousness, and we are at peace with God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through him we obtain this favor in which we stand, and we exult hoping to share the Glory of God.

Not only that, we also boast even in trials, knowing that trials produce patience, then patience creates merit, merit in the hope of hope and hope does not disappoint us because the Holy Spirit has been given us, pouring into our hearts the love of God.

Gospel: Jn 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "I still have many things to tell you but you cannot bear them now. When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into the whole truth.

"He has nothing to say of himself but he will speak of what he hears, and he will tell you of the things to come. He will take what is mine and make it known to you, including all the Father has. All the Father has is mine because of this I have just told you, that the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you."

Commentary:

Almost the whole world, it seems, is now familiar with Rubber's theories on the origin of the Trinity. I already quoted a short passage from Rubber more Considerations on this issue. Here is another:

"Gazing at the title we have raised the question, Who are they? What are they saying? and we, in our silence, can perceive something of this secret. We hardly turning towards one another can be sure if one is distance—it looks as if they were only doing sport or art—such one is there only for the other... Each one of them is saying himself to his others, dedication for give the other. That is why their faces are full of an infinite tenderness, the tenderness that is without resistance before what the other offers or asks.

And what if in face of humankind they are to this same attitude of the two watchers, rather silently and dedicated to each other...?

In the background, shapes can only just be seen, as if hidden in the golden light as mountains, a tree, a house. Why not just take these persons alone? The great sound which comes from the Spirit in the Bible through the Son is of making the landscape after it has its irresistible force. The mountains and the trees are here to name wind. The great things which they celebrate among themselves naturally and for ever more emerge all creation up to the rhythm of its dance."

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SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS

Kid Challenge
Badminton Tournament for Kids
June 12 and 13, Greenhills Mall 2

Coca-Cola, TNT move to q'finals

By Jose Novatio

COCA-COLA handily avoided the firepower of Mark Sanford to clobber Purefoods and avoid getting entangled in a sudden-death encounter.

The Tigers, enjoying a twice-to-four advantage, simply watched the TJ Holdings self-destruct in the last two quarters for a 94-91 win and a spot in the quarterfinals of the Iron Man-Abe Phil Pemsa Conference last night at the Philsports Arena.

Jeffrey Cariaso exploded with 26 points, taking all sizes of rebounds from Sanford.

Gerdi Jaro went to Prob Jones, Rudy Hatfield and Ronnel Hapunan, who took turns shackling Purefoods' import, James Head.

Sanford, who finished with 24 points and nine rebounds, sat out most of the first half and was active only 26 minutes to give his California legs a needed rest.

Talk 'N Text booted out FedEx in the other game, 103-101, to advance to the quarterfinals with the Tigers. Game officials nullified Wynne Arboleda's buzzer-beater that could have saved the conference for the Express.

The Phone Pals will join San Miguel Beer, Team USA and the winner of the Red Bull-Red match to occupy 4 of the quarterfinals. The Tigers still face Sunkist in Group B with Alaska, Canada's University of British Columbia and the survivor of the Sta. Lucia Realty-Giardia playoff encounter.

Head scored 25 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, but was responsible for six of Purefoods' conference-high 20 turnovers.

The scores:

COCA-COLA 96—Cariaso 26, Sanford 24, Hatfield 14, Hapunan 10, Jones 8, Hontiveros 5, Mercene 3, Hayward 2, Arboleda 0.

PUREFOODS 91—Head 25, Raymundo 16, Ong 15, Lingad 9, Gonzalez 7, Arboleda 6, Reyes 5, Yap 5, Garcia 3, Johnson 2, Palmares 0.

Quarters: 23-22, 39-47, 67-62, 94-91.

JOHNNY Abarrientos (right) of Coca-Cola drives past Rob Johnson of Purefoods to flash his 1st successful win by the Holidays. STORY ON

Juntilla gives Hapee another lift

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH fixed second, there's no getting rid of Hapee Toothpaste.

Sensational rookie Reed Juntilla again fooled out the defending champion with a three-pointer in the final minute for a 68-61 triumph over Toyota Otis-Letran that allowed the Tooth Sparklers to stay alive for the PBL 2nd Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The 19-year-old Juntilla, straight out of the University of Visayas in Cebu, scored 19 points including clutch baskets as the Tooth Sparklers posted their eighth win in 10 games, one shy of a playoff for one last Guard berth.

"How we can talk about it (Juntilla)," said Hapee coach Jamel Bawali. "On Tuesday (against Wet Mascot Wine-Rich), we will put everything on the line and make sure we don't regret everything we have worked on."

That includes a fierce game-running clock, all of which featured the 6-foot-2 Juntilla's exploits. The collegiate scholar major, according to Bawali, is fast filling the shoes left by last conference's MVP Peter Jean Simon who was traded to the PBA.

The Eagles, already out of the running, veering the game, shrouded their 10th loss in 11 games but still carry the pride of having come this far in their very first conference in the league.

Scoring

HAPEE 68—Cruz 11, Ig 14, Arabe 6, Dulay 9, Mercado 3, Mendoza 2, Juntilla 19, Cariaso 0, Mendoza 4.

OTIS-LETRAN 61—Jones 15, Dumpan 10, Perez 7, Mendoza, Ramirez, Asuncion, Dario 4, Jara 5, Valdez 4, Tadeo 3, Dulci, Bondy 2.

Quarters: 15-11, 33-28, 53-52, 68-61.

Big turnout at Inquirer Badminton Expo

By Jasmine W. Payo

BADMINTON fanatics came in droves yesterday to witness the opening of the two-day Inquirer Badminton Expo, the biggest ever exhibition of the booming sport, at the Megatrade Hall 2 of the SM Megamall.

Thousands of badminton enthusiasts rummaged through the exhibits and merchandise stalls put up by the major sponsors of the Expo and took advantage of huge price cut-offs in the fair.

The Inquirer Badminton Expo also featured the first 13-station tournament, whose elimination rounds went underway yesterday.

The Expo was opened by Inquirer president and former national player Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and is billed as the ultimate crossroads of the sport where popular Jo has reached newfound heights.

Former national team star Teresa Gan is to shows a lot of people to her Bangay haul. mirror display.

Among those whose products sent on display—and eventually on sale—were Yonex, Prince, Adidas, Mizuno and Ivosis, popular badminton equipment and apparel makers whose sales picked up when the sport hit big-time. Distributors like Tobo's and Sportsbrokers also showcased their products.

Badminton court owners and other corporate supporters of the sport were all at the expo, which is also sponsored by San Miguel Super Dry, Bore, Smart Bid, Epson and Unilever.

Romanie Amateur's 9-year-old protégé, Joe Santos, unmedaled but was a favorite in the Smart Kid Badminton Challenge, as he sang with full confidence against Luigi Tomas for a 7-2, 7-4 blitz victory that earned him a semifinal berth in the 9-and-under.

Romani advanced against 13-year-old JC Cayanan, who subdued 8-year-old younger brother Jayvee, 7-5, 7-1, in their duke of it in the semifinals.

The close out of the Expo will also feature a dreams romance by Jasmine columnist Tina Arao and the second part of the Bangay/Jasmani exhibition by Lim.

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Gozon

ROAD WARRIOR
Bolivian Aymara woman Presentina Mamani wrings her slingshot atop a mound of earth that blocks the road that leads to Peru, June 4. Several indigenous communities of the Bolivian highlands blocked roads on the La Paz-Peru highway to oppose the July 18 referendum set by the government to decide on the future of gas reserves and other energy issues. AFP

US, Britain offer Iraq right to cast out troops

UNITED NATIONS—The United States and Britain on Friday offered Iraq's interim government the right to send home US-led troops under a new UN resolution they want to get approved in the coming days.

The two war allies first issued several proposals in their draft to ease some concerns of fellow Security Council members, as well as Iraq, ahead of high-level talks this weekend on the June 30 transfer of power in Baghdad.

The new resolution will endorse the handover to the interim government installed in Baghdad on Tuesday.

In the previous version, only the new Iraqi government due to be elected by the end of January would have had the authority to ask the forces to leave.

But the apparent concession seemed to bear little real impact after Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Thursday that US-led troops would have to remain for "some time" to prevent a slide into chaos and civil war.

Friday's revised draft also nodded to other questions raised by council opponents, including Russian pressure over the UN inspectors who examined Iraq's weapons programs under Saddam Hussein.

The new text says that the council would in future consider the mandates of the inspectors, who have not returned to Iraq since the war that drove Saddam from power last year.

On Thursday, Zebari seemed to dash circuit much of the council opposition to the earlier draft, saying it was "quite adequate" on the question of Iraqi sovereignty after the end of the US occupation.

China, France, Germany and Russia had all called for various changes to the text, including strengthened language making clear that Iraq would have full sovereignty after the occupation formally ends June 30.

British ambassador Emyr Jones Parry called Zebari's remarks a "forging endorsement" and said he expected a vote soon, although no date has yet been set.

"We are making good progress," deputy state department spokesperson Adam Ereli said in Washington. "I think we are moving toward a consensus." AFP

2nd top CIA spy exits amid calls for change

WASHINGTON—A second top CIA official announced his departure Friday amid mounting calls for reforms to the world's biggest spy agency in the wake of the resignation of its director, George Tenet.

Tenet quit on Thursday amid criticism over intelligence failures on Iraq and the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

James Pavitt, deputy director in charge of CIA clandestine operations, is to retire this summer, the first Iraqi government due to be elected by the end of January would have had the authority to ask the forces to leave.

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US occupation of France after D-Day had downside

By Jarvey Knutson

PARIS—With crashing firepower, 65-ton heroes stormed into a proud nation under the yoke of a murderous tyrant to cries of joy from a liberated public. Then came the less uplifting work of running an occupation.

Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003? No, France from D-Day and the next years of Americ can occupation that followed.

President Bush and other leaders gathering on the beaches of Normandy this weekend will celebrate the heroism and ingenuity of June 6, 1944. But many scholars are posing closer attention to what followed in the vision settled in—black market trade, armed robbery, looting and rape.

Only a small minority of GIs were involved, but the subject needs more study, said Robert Lil, criminology professor at Northern Kentucky University, author of "The GI Hidden Wars," not yet published in the United States.

"There is a great, ugly underbelly that has not been really explored," he said by telephone.

Even before D-Day, the first heroines French Gen. Charles de Gaulle and his American allies was already foreshadowing future diplomatic strains, but the French public largely embraced the interlopers troops who had led the defeat of Hitler's armies.

"There remains a huge recognition toward the liberators (they are still heroes," said Elizabeth Coquart, journalist and author of "La France des Gis" ("France of the GIs"). "But that doesn't mean we can't judge and say 'yes, some do believe badly.'"

"It's the same as in Iraq," she said. "Any military occupation—whatever it may be—grows inevitably over time."

There are limits to the parallels with Iraq. France was a country already battered by four years of foreign domination, but it quickly had a provisional government in place. The Americans faced nothing resembling the Iraqi insurgency, and they left it to the French to deal with its Nazi collaborators.

And the occupation, though long, was short, compared with that of postwar Germany or, according to the US Army Center for Military History in Washington, 558,000 American soldiers remained in France in October 2003—five months after the Germans had left. By the end, 24,000 were on their way out. Britain also had troops in France, but far fewer.

While there were rapes by GIs in France, Lilly said the number of cases "skyrocketed" when US soldiers left Germany for home and their ways to return to the Europe theater on May 8, 1945.

Lilly said he was inspired to examine rape by GIs from stories by his father and uncle, both World War II veterans. In his book, he estimates 14,000 rapes by US soldiers in France from June 1944 to June 1945, based on military records he analyzed.

While US soldiers were exempt from prosecution by French courts, those who were court-martialed often received severe punishment.

Of 339 soldiers suspected of rape in the specific cases Lilly mined up, 116 were convicted, his book says. He found that 70 soldiers were executed for crimes in the entire European theater during the war.

Coquart found only a "handful" of GIs, about 1 percent of those mentioned here until France set up its own government in 1946, were interned in administrative and others.

Peter Gottfried Adams, a military historian at Britain's Royal Military College of Science, said homicides was a factor.

"When you get a lot of looted war-effective troops with a lot of time on their hands, you get excesses of behaviour," he said by phone from Britain.

Still, it was enough to feed the dividing among the French Resistance in some regions across France mediated officers not to prosecute GIs suspected of wrongdoing but to hand them over to US authorities, Coquart said. AP

Seoul, Pyongyang agree to open cross-border roads

SEOUL—South and North Korean officials announced Saturday that they had reached an agreement to open cross-border roads and trains and cut cuts on two railways across their heavily fortified frontier in coming months.

Under the accord, talks followed a four-day meeting of economic officials in Pyongyang, the two sides will open two roads, one across the western part of the inter-Korean border and the other in the east.

They will also test-run two railways running alongside the roads, a tentative first signal from Pyongyang.

"The South and North... shall test run on the linked sections of the railways in October 2004," said a joint statement.

"In addition, the two sides will open the South-North road and the eastern road no later than in October," it said.

The two sides also agreed to set up by the end of June a joint agency to run an industrial park being built in North Korea's Kaesong city near the border and operate a South Korean tourist resort.

The sprawling park, mainly to house hundreds of South Korean garment and other labor-intensive plants, will be reached by the eastern cross-border transport links.

Electricity for the complex will come from the South after the state-run Korea Electric Power Corp. completes building power lines by late September.

Production at the complex will start by the end of this year, the agreement said.

South and North Korean officials at the meeting also said they needed to speed up work on a demonstration complex in the park to ensure that South Korean firms move in and begin production by the end of next year.

Fifteen firms out of 150 applicants seeking to operate in the Kaesong complex have been selected, including metal watch maker, Romanson. AFP

10 years after, O.J. Simpson insists he's innocent

By Linda Deutsch

MIAMI—O.J. Simpson complained Friday that the media have overturned the public he is guilty, and he said he hopes the real killer is found so that he can have the pleasure of proving people wrong.

"My prayer is that it will be solved so that I can get even more people that I didn't had to take on," he said in an interview with The Associated Press marking the 10th anniversary of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson's slaying. "I'm always been a gracious winner and loser. Only this time, I don't think I'll be gracious."

On June 12, 1994, Simpson's former wife was stabbed to death along with a friend, Ronald Goldman, outside her Brentwood condominium. The slayings and the subsequent trial riveted the nation's attention. Simpson was ultimately acquitted. Many believe he got away with murder.

In a wide-ranging interview, Simpson said he blames the media "for convicting the wrong guy before I was guilty." He said he sees the same thing happening with some of today's high-profile criminal cases.

"You can't search the media now and not think that Michael Jackson, Scott Peterson and Kobe Bryant are guilty," the former football star said.

Simpson said coverage is particularly slanted against black defendants. "It's much easier to prosecute a black man."

He said he has given up his much-publicized pledge to search for the "real killer" because of the demands of raising two teenage children and paying for their education.

"I no longer have the money to pay to hit less up these leads," he said.

Simpson said he has never discussed the bloody slayings with his two children, Sydney, 16, and Justin, 15, because they were asked about it.

"It never comes up with us," he said. "In the beginning, I wanted to sit down and talk to them about it. But the child psychologists said no no. With five for the future. They move on. One day in the future, they may want to talk about it, and you should be ready."

He said the focus in the Simpson household is on remembering what he was the happy times with his ex-wife, not her death. He said he recently took the children on a cruise, and they learned what would have been her 45th birthday.

"My kids are well aware of what was going on during the trial," he said.

His daughter is planning to attend a private university in the Northeast next fall, while his son attends a private high school in Miami.

In discussing the murders, Simpson said, "I swear to there I can't add anything."

Simpson, 56, the last getting and making title favorite than he did during the trial, said he often wonders how his relationship with Nicole would have turned out had he not been murdered.

"She has time I told her it wasn't working, we ended up making love," he said. "There's no doubt that Nicole and I loved each other."

Nicole Simpson's sister, Denise Brown, said she still believes Simpson is the killer, calling his acquittal "a total injustice." AP

O.J. Simpson and ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, in an Oct. 31, 1993 photo. AP

Armed Colorado man in bulldozer goes on rampage

GRANBY, Colorado—A mother shop owner repeatedly angry at local governments over a zoning dispute tore through town in an armored bulldozer, smashing buildings and firing shots as police tried to stop the slow-motion rampage.

Authorities said blasting her way into the steel-plated cab of the machine with eight-shot law Friday, but two explosions failed to penetrate the makeshift armor, Grand County Emergency Management Director Jim Hoblas said. One explosive could be heard at least a kilometers and a half away.

Authorities were not sure whether authorities knew the condition of the bulldozer driver, identified by the town manager as Marvin Hennepen.

The slow-motion rampage left a trail of splintered structures in this mountain resort town outside Rocky Mountain National Park, but there were no reports of injuries. The driver was armed with a 30-caliber weapon, but it appeared he deliberately avoided injuring anyone, Hoblas said.

At least six sheriff's deputies, State Patrol officers and federal park and forest rangers fired about 200 rounds at the yellow bulldozer as it crept through town, Hoblas said. The shots were deflected by heavy metal plates over the cab, hood and radiator, apparently welded on over a period of weeks in the driver's modified shop.

"It looked like a futuristic tank," said Bud Hunt, speaking by phone from his auto-garage-and-towing company.

He said the bulldozer rumbled past within 3 meters of his shop, with an officer perched on top, firing shots into the cab. At one point, he said the officer dropped some kind of explosive from the exhaust pipe. AP

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US soldiers could face war crimes charges–UN

GENEVA—The United Nations' top human rights official said on Friday abuses by US soldiers of Iraqi prisoners in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison could amount to war crimes.

Among High Commissioner for Human Rights Bertrand Ramcharan said US-led occupation forces had committed "serious violations" of international humanitarian law in Iraq and had ill-treated ordinary Iraqis.

In a report for the world body's human rights Commission, Ramcharan, a Britain-trained barrister from Guyana and long-time UN official, also said conditions inside were still not in accordance with security and urged the appointment of an independent Spain to monitor their behavior.

In a clear reference to the Abu Ghraib incidents, there where several US male and female soldiers working there have been detained. Ramcharan said "wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment" of detainees was a grave breach of international law.

Such acts "might be designated as war crimes by a competent tribunal," he added.

The only US soldier to face court martial so far for his role in the Abu Ghraib abuse cases was sent to jail for one year.

US state department spokesperson Adam Ereli declined to comment on whether US soldiers may have committed war crimes at the Ghraib and said the United States believed its soldiers should be judged within the US military justice system.

Ereli said reports that US forces may have mistreated ordinary Iraqis were troubling and Washington would ask for more details.

The United States has refused to sign a 1998 treaty creating the world's first permanent global war crimes tribunal.

The United States was one of 133 nations to sign the treaty under former President Bill Clinton. But President George W. Bush's administration rescinded the signature, stating the court could bring politically motivated or frivolous cases against US troops serving on foreign soil.

The 40-page report cited case histories like Ghraib detainee, Saddam Ahmed Al-Rawi, 20, as telling UN investigators he was subjected to 16 days of torture in the US-run prison.

This included the pulling of teeth, kicking and beating and threats of rape, and amongst he would be killed if he told a visiting international Red Cross team about his treatment.

The report quoted Rawi as saying that he suffered physical torture when he was held as an Iraqi prisoner under ousted president Saddam Hussein. But under US-led occupation forces, he was additionally subjected to "humiliation and mental cruelty."

"The serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law that have taken place since US and British troops invaded Iraq in March last year and ousted then President Saddam Hussein] must not be allowed to recur," the report said. Reuters

Argentines forge title clash

HENIN-3: Winner Lisel

PARIS—Sitting in the third row of the VIP section at the French Open, Guillermo Vilas wore a sombrero sojourn shirt and black suit, which made him look oddly funereal on a day of celebration for his nation.

By the end of the afternoon, Argentina had two players in a Grand Slam finals for the first time. On Sunday, one will become the first Argentine man to win a major title since Guillermo Vilas 25 years ago.

Guillermo Coria—turned after Vilas—and Gastón Gaudio will both be playing in their 'first Grand Slam final.

"There will be a lot of emotion," Vilas said. "Whoever wins on Sunday, I'm happy. I'm glad they have the opportunity."

It's a day that seemed destined to come. Following the long clay spell since Vilas won the last of his four major titles at the 1979 Australian Open, Argentina turned in the top 50, four made the Roland Garros quarterfinals, a first for the nation, and three reached the semifinals, another first.

"They have been close for many years, and now they're coming through," Vilas said. "And so many more will come. They are playing better and better. It's not just a steady improvement. Players are growing and learning all the time."

The 50s, 3-seeded Coria advanced to the final with more skillful than expected, sending rather to the second and fourth sets on Friday to beat Tim Henman, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

CZECH: celebrates after beating Henman.

Interesting duel

SPECTATOR

U.S. Monday

THE RADIO listeners, incited, let most anywhere you go this time of the year when you are in Luzon, the skies are either overcast or dark. The sun comes out, now in covert a fashion. "Tis the merry season once again.

The farmers are rejoicing. To them, the rainy season is the season of their salvation.

Without the rains, they couldn't till the fields. Without the rains, they couldn't plant (planting etc.

Without the rains, they couldn't continue the cycle of life.

In short, our farmers live because of the rain.

In the last few days, our youngsters could play basketball or tennis in their yard. Because their makeshift basketball courts are usually our covered (coliseums break promises to host them, several (yes, several), they were either stay at home watching PBA games or help their parents tend to the rice fields. If one has a PBA addict for a father, what a boon; the kid might yet be managed from toiling in the fields.

But while the rains are a boon to our farmers, they are, strictly speaking, a bane not only to our aspiring super-fans but to our golfers.

Name maker our golf courses soft and soggy rain balls those that are not all-weather.

So no tackle basketball, the rains cannot stop our from playing golf. Even tournaments, such as the ongoing MLGP organized Philippine Amateurs at Villamor, lives to defying rain, a golf tournament has got to finish a designated round for the day (will it (game that also includes the elements or prays.

Only when the skies rent with thunder and lit up with lightning that a tournament gets stopped. Which means, any player can invoke his safety when there's lightning to stop the round; the rules of the game allow him (or her, to say five all in emergent statement to safeguard the integrity of the game, golf also respects the value of human life.

Also, it's worse get flooded because of rains and the course is deemed unplayable, officials can also either shorten the tournament and stop it altogether or suspend the round and resume it the following day. If it's still flooded the next day, the tournament can be declared over, using the result of the previous day to ascertain the final positions of the competitors.

But the ongoing Philippine Amateurs is different. It is played match, meaning the battle is for holes and not strokes.

Today's 36-hole finals can be so demanding and challenging should the two pressure-seat determined to storm, France-legitimate.

But come hell or high water as the saying goes, the battle is on at Villamor starting at 7:30 a.m.

The protagonists, Jay Bonto and Antonio Murakami, are a picture of contrasting features. "Both (are) reminds me somewhat (same).

Bonto won four years (2001-05) AP Open, one of the majors in amateur golf. Until that victory last January, Bonto was simply known as an unassuming guy trying to carve a name in Philippine golf. Yesterday, his demure-ish big name was hammered by this masterful 5 & 3 victory over Marvin Dumandan, last year's losing finalist and who had just finished second to a big tournament in Malaysia.

As Murakami, Bonto has an opponent who is as stranger to success.

Murakami won the crown in 1999, he was 19 then, the youngest ever to do it.

A while back, Dumandan, as his friends call him, was in the spotlight for a different reason: the golfer went wrong to implicate him in the murder of his ex-lover Jether Pelting (now out of (last, though, and I'm glad Dumandan has emerged from it not badly tainted. I think Dumandan has recovered from that (and (cannot now.

It will be an interesting final. So (supposed to be one of the older ones for the match together with my bosses Tobe Tolentino and Jake Arnaldo, but, alas, it's Sunday—my "Washington Day" at church-call it. If anyone in the (still at Villamor. While I'm at church, I hope (he (everyone out there (prays) for me.

The (talk of the (town)hold Sunday, needs (your watching you know.

* * *

FAIRBANKS: In (always, the 2004 Chubbies Buddah Golf Classic at Pinch Pitch Inn) with (two (another) (coaching) (success, Allen Chubbies Chris (and (CEO Bruce) (Robinson) (to) (SOUTH the (duo) (second) (two (time). Carpenter don't (Claire Mountain) (got) (win) (all) (titles (since) (that) (another) (the) (all) (but) (was) (no) (easier) (for) (some) (101) (media) (friends) (of) (Chubbies), (which) (included) (Buddah) (golf) (founder) (Bowser) (Jonathan) (Ygnas), (me) (as) (Chubbies) (left) (honored) (that) (you've) (come) (to) (join) (us) (in) (this) (most) (important) (golfing) (day) (of) (the) (year), (said) (the) (Howard) (during) (the) (awards) (ceremony). He got a (warm) (applause). Thanks, Sir Howard, and also Chito for your kindness and generosity. Till next year.

Barrett fires 66

AURORA, Illinois— Tim Barrett birdied the 8 and 9th for a 6-under 66 at the Kellogg-Inspire Classic on Friday and a one-shot lead over a bunched field heading into the weekend.

His excellent opening round was set up by an eagle at No. 2.

Barrett played a bogey-free round to lead five players grouped at 5-under. Nancy Scranton, Liselotte Neumann, Annika Sörenstam and Catriona Matthew.

Defending champion Annika Sörenstam finished five strokes off the lead with a 1-under 71. Players from the Rookies shot a 73.

GOVERNMENT WARNING:
Cigarette smoking
is dangerous to your health

Big Bad Lakers: LA motivated by villain's role

LOS ANGELES—As long as Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant wear gold and purple uniforms, the Los Angeles Lakers will never be a serious underdog in an NBA playoff series.

But power is one reason the Lakers are big favorites in the upcoming NBA Finals, which most expect the scrappy, defense-oriented Detroit Pistons to become the sixth straight Eastern Conference champion dismissed by the Hollywood franchise.

So is the Pistons' antenna-is-clear. They've got a rare chance to prove the basketball world wrong. But when will the Lakers survive unscathed while playing for their fourth championship in five years?

Leave that to O'Neal, whose outlandish personal and basketball plays often are as fun to as they are effective. He has derailed the Lakers on occasion, but the Lakers' opponent is hoping their mind-dynamo will be sidetracked by Detroit.

"Of course they are," O'Neal said. "Everyone wants to see us falter. I just think that sometimes they climb that tree the Tarzan of basketball. No knowledge it's going to take. We're not going to walk on this team by any means. We have to do what we're supposed to do. The always supposed to win."

For all their fame, wealth and personal-trend attractive, there's a simple reason Shaq and Kobe always expect to win. Though every team plans to play its best basketball in the spring, the Lakers do.

They were a mess of conflicting skills and rampaging egos for most of their tumultuous season, but they've won 14 of their last 15 games to reach the finals. That momentum, even more than their individually talented roster, makes them the favorite over Detroit in Game 1 on Sunday. AP

LORD OF THE RINGS
Paul Hamm performs on the still rings during the senior men's finals at the US Gymnastics Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday. AP

Hopkins, Hoya eye megafight

LAS VEGAS—Middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins wanted to make his point and put referees Joe Cortez out action. In the end, though, the lure of at least $15 million and a fight with Oscar De La Hoya proved too much for him to resist.

Hopkins backed off his threat Friday to pull out of the defense of his undisputed title against Robert Allen, arguing a cut that could lead to a lucrative megafight in September with De La Hoya.

...four hours before the weigh-in for Saturday's fights, Hopkins agreed to have Cortez as the referee despite believing that Cortez may be biased against him for throwing a Puerto Rican flag to the ground to promote his fight with Felix Trinidad there years ago. Both Cortez and Trinidad are Puerto Ricans.

The undefeated master Hopkins will defend his undisputed title against Allen, while De La Hoya will fight undefeated IBO titans of Germany on the same card Saturday night at the MGM Grand hotel-casino.

The boxing world currently is paying more attention to Hopkins in a week when usually De La Hoya would have taken the spotlight.

Hopkins, who has a contentious history with promoters and managers, said he agreed to fight after being assured by an intermediary that Cortez would be fair to him in the ring on Saturday. AP

Paragua, Dableo face tough foes

FLEURIEU HG Mark Gallano Paraguas and Asian 3-2x pistol champion IM Ronald Dableo (2225 2426) will leave the country for the World Chess Championships scheduled in Tripoli, Libya, and Valletta, Malta, from June 10 to July 12.

Accompanied by their secondy-trainers, IM Rogelio "Eros" and GM Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor, both Paraguas and Dableo have gigantic tasks in the first round of the Fide-style knockout tournament.

The 20-year-old Paraguas meets 32-year-old Super GM Victor Bologan, Moldova's No. 1 player and currently No. 39 in the world, while Dableo faces tested No. 38 Super Grandmaster Lazaro Ontiveros Filipinense of Nicaragua.

Marilyn Bernardino

Shakey's LEAGUE

FOLLOW THE ACTION ON THE SPIKERS' TURF

GAME SCHEDULES

Today @ 4pm	Letran vs. U S T
Mon @ 3pm	Lyceum vs. La Salle
Tue @ 3pm	U S T vs. Sn Sebastian
Wed @ 3pm	F E U vs. Lyceum
Thu @ 3pm	Sn Sebastian vs. La Salle
Fri @ 3pm	Letran vs. F E U

TEAM STANDING

Group A	W	L	Group B	W	L
Sn Sebastian	2	0	U S T	2	0
De La Salle	1	1	Letran	1	1
Lyceum	0	2	F E U	0	2

Serve...Toss...Spike... with the Shakey's "Volley Belles"

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That reconciliation thing

THE AFTERMATH of an election unprecedented in its historic entertainingness and viciousness has understandably led to calls for reconciliation from various fronts, not only from the administration, which seeks to shore up the rather tenuous plurality that media to have enabled it to win the election, but also from the opposition, which also has to shore up its minority position by some reapprochement with the

EDITORIALS ruling majority.

The fact that either side seeks to invoke the peace pipe in order to lessen its disadvantages and boost its chances in the political arena should show the political determinism that impels nearly all moves toward reconciliation. In short, the calls for reconciliation that grace the front pages are politically inspired. They hardly come from the wellspring of ethics or moral theology. For example, Catholic theologians have insisted on reconciliation with justice, a moral conundrum for politicians steeped in short cuts and horse-trading.

The political motivation of reconciliation is evident in Joseph Estrada's exhortation for reconciliation "with justice" that he interprets to his own personal advantage: "justice" means dropping the charges of corruption and plunder filed against him. Fernando Poe Jr., eager to do his imprisoned friend's bidding, views reconciliation much the same way, but with his own personal agenda in the picture: acknowledgment on the part of the administration of his claim he had been cheated of presidential victory. The Misereses and their former close associates, who have supported Poe, have their own version of reconciliation, one that would exonerate them of any wrongdoing during their long rule and allow them to keep a good part of their ill-gotten hoard.

Against all of this stands President Macapagal-Arroyo, who after all was the first to broach the idea of reconciliation largely to co-opt her political opponents, lessen or decimate the opposition, and make the possibility of her re-election less remote.

But however politically motivated, her reconciliation posture has also been impelled by a political reality that has legal and social moorings. Her ascension into power by extra-constitutional means that she herself admits has spun the nation and made governance problematic and divisive. She came to office with a constitutional baggage that she now seeks to repudiate and discard within a century in an electoral exercise.

Perhaps Ms Macapagal could navigate through the contentious seas by addressing reconciliation to those who would most benefit from it: the people who are, after all, seeking to come together and unite in order for the nation to forge ahead. She should reach out to the supporters of Estrada and the opposition and impress upon them her desire and program to unite the nation and heal its divisions, and that her presidency is one of national solidarity and concern for all, regardless of partisan persuasions.

Coming clean

THE LONG years of discourse on reconciliation are instructive of the issue's potential to become a political raise field. Since 1986, the people have been hearing calls for charity and reconciliation supposedly to be accorded to those who have been hunted out of office because of corruption and mismanagement.

But whenever the calls are made, stringent voices against them are heard. It seems the calls could pluck a wild nerve in the people's consciousness, which is well and good since the issue is, after all, moral and social.

Reconciliation based on justice does not mean a write-off of crimes of plunder and violation of people's trust. It means mercy and compassion to those who have committed them in the context of human justice and personal accountability. Legally, reconciliation based on justice may be achieved in the context of trial and conviction or even perhaps a settlement that does not, however, gloss over the plain fact that crimes have been committed and that persons in leadership have to face accountability for their commission.

Two often reconciliation is viewed as one-way, as something accorded by those in power to those who have been displaced by popular revolts against abuse of leadership. It is high time that the call be made on those who have been toppled. They, too, must seek peace with the people by coming clean about their crimes.

Delaying the defeat

SEPARATE OPINION

Dagohoy A. Cruz

I COULD watch the proceedings of Congress during the pre-operative only for so long before the antics of its members filled me with much disgust. I never had much respect for them to begin with, but their conduct during their sessions last week has a new low in public servant decorum.

Sen. Angelito Pimentel as the one of the senators who let began to innocently pleading that he did not intend to be an obstructionist. But he was that and more in coming to many objections to the proposal to have the senate convene to a breakout committee session to the review and approval of Congress in joint session.

Rep. Antonio Nachura, a bar reviewer in Criminal Law and Labor Law, invoked the sacred legal language the qualification and merits of the plan to simplify the canvass. The objective would be to have it over in the 24 sessions and the 240 members of the House of Representatives to examine the 195 certificates of canvass and other documents, in hopes of discovering errors, omissions or misspelled to invalidate them.

Sen. Edgardo Angara must have felt he also had to somewhere his own opposition to the plan as a natural born of the Evolucion ng Sambayanang Filipino whose debate by the administration was inevitable. So he too employed to many rhetoric devices in his own proposal for proclamation of Doctor Macapagal-Arroyo as the president-elect in the last election.

Rep. Edcel Lagman was the way bad boor in the legislature formerly. He deserved the highest award for championing the Congress of the Philippines into the worst deliberative assembly in the entire history of the Philippine Republic. Even ordinary matters with their idealized concept of democratic government could not believe his demeanor of obvious effort to inject his obnoxious performance.

Ethnopolice took umbrage when an outraged citizen was late a note willing him to shut up his tyrannic filibuster. He exploded over this well-meant advice from a citizen who could no longer bear the legislator's bullshit. Here up to a member of Congress! This was insult of the highest degree and contempt of the House of Representatives! That citizen should be arrested, he fumed, and punished for degrading Congress and one of its honorable members!

This outcome of a public officer has no part in the long dramatic character of the people of Representatives. No wonder, Rep. Teodoro M. Locsin, one of its redeeming members, called the ballistic colleague "silly." It was more than that, actually, but he is suffer for the status as an Ley so was his self-restraint of possible officer punishments.

The presiding officers of the joint session were no less excusable. In fact, they deserve censure for their overdone and all too willing accommodation of the opposition members whose obvious purpose was to delay the proceedings. To worse, so openly generated Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia said they were merely being democratic when they were actually showing disunderstood to be used by the minority.

In Democracy, the majority rules but the number of his colleagues on the floor but what he should be such he was let even confusion on the occasion. He and Drilon should have acted with more authority in the occasion required. They were not presiding over a party caucus but a joint session ordered by the Constitution itself to enact into law conduct of a presidential election. This had to be done with all possible speed and did not penalty the convention of Congress into a three-ring circus.

Sen. Juliet B. Brown could no longer contain himself when a party-list member accused for the reconsideration of a rule that his House approved the day before. Senate President Drilon said it was a valid motion and would have passed back as it is unless somebody out of the session had voted for it before! when Angara was rebuked of the irregular procedure. Drilon then backed off and the matter was deferred, never to be raised again.

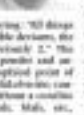
This incident was typical of the entire proceedings, which is only expected after years of the members of Congress. These matters had nothing to do with the welfare of the country. They had everything to do with personal gratification and political duelling/give. The Constitution was being obeyed by the letter by the losing candidates, and with the willing collaboration of Drilon and De Venecia.

The lawmakers of the nation argue their differences with honorable on the very floor of their chamber, but they never descend to the level of the ethnopolice. Even the most ardent opposition legislators is no less shameful. Through its spineless leaders, the majority is observing the minority is manipulated it into a willing accomplice in the violation of the constitutional mandate for the accommodation of the results of the election. Congress is now on the verge of a possible case and with due deference to the rule of law.

As for the alleged defects in the conduct of the campaign or the election, these are for another case, jurisdiction of Congress as the proper, denial board of canvassers. The losing candidates may go for relief to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, where they can argue their case with admissible evidence and without unnecessary speechifying.

And still counting. . .

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

TODAY is Trinity Sunday. I was going to ask the Commission on Elections to count how many persons there are in the Trinity, but the mystery may not just escape me. Perhaps the answer is, "Not that many, just go to the streets of metropolis. Or perhaps the National Movement for Free Elections, but it may give me a clear count. Or maybe the joint committee of Congress, but it may just fall into a locked-and-loss debates and non-decisions!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 16, 12-15) Jesus promises that when the Spirit of Truth comes, "He will guide you into the whole Truth." Let us pray that the Spirit will descend upon Congress to proclaim the whole truth about the elections. Half-truths are dangerous and deceiving. The greatest deceit is when the people's will is manipulated, is not respected and worse, is not made known or is covered-up. In the end of the day it is not whether Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Fernando Poe Jr. won, but whether the Truth won, and whether the will of the people won.

* * *

The Spirit of the Trinity is that of openness and truth. It is the spirit of living for. There is no commandment or calling of the Truth. And this is why there is freedom. Where there is hiding or manipulation the Truth is not free. Lines always have the "sword of Damocles" over their heads. You and I know that we can destroy people and get away with it some time, but you and I also know that we cannot get away with it all the time. There will be full and reckoning, a final one-to-one when the Truth will rule, definitely and finally come out.

* * *

All of us, in one way or another, are involved in the business of counting. This reminds me of the story about a scientist, a philosopher and an accountant who were asked what 1+1 is. The scientist approached the question in a methodical and exact way, and ended up saying, "All things considered, including possible deviants, the answer is clearly and obviously 2." The philosopher took time to ponder and answered: "From the philosophical point of view the question, while valid otherwise, cannot be pursued a priori, without a conditional ego quo non. Math, Math, Math, etc., etc.—but the answer is 2."

And the accountant's answer? "What is 1+1? It depends on how much you want it!"

* * *

Still, for all of us who are involved in the business of counting, remember, what is most important in counting is that we count with the Trinity. What does it profit you if you accumulate lots of money now, but in the end, you will not be counted in the Book of Life because you lost? Think about it. Is it worth it?

* * *

The lessons line is: Does the Trinity still count in your life? That's the bottom line. Nothing else matters.

* * *

My dramatic confessor Dr. Glenn Gomez, SVD passed on to me something which I would like to pass on to you. It is about the "Source of Light" which can help shed light on the mystery of the Trinity. Accordingly, science tells us that light is composed of three rays or groups of wavelengths, distinct from each other but not one of which would be light without the two others. Each ray has its own separate function: the first, brightness; the second, warmth; and the third, transmission. That which originates is invisible. That which manifests is seen and felt. That which communicates is not seen, but felt. Applied to the Trinity, the first ray, then which originates, is the Father, the invisible light. The second ray, then which manifests, is Jesus, both seen and felt. The third ray that which communicates is the Holy Spirit, not seen but felt.

* * *

Where do we fit in? In Jesus, we have seen and felt the Father, and through the Holy Spirit, we are re-creations making the Trinitarian love seen and felt all over the world. In Jesus, we have become sons and daughters of the Father, empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread God's love to others. In other words, we count with, in and for the Trinity.

* * *

For just here is a pilgrimage, and it is so easy to let down and hinder in a tough land. This is a natural feeling when you are in a difficult house journey, and this can be accentuated when the people in that country make you feel like you don't count—invisible, hidden away. It is a tough moment when the company of life for pilgrims, people with whom you feel at home, make you leave you.

Yes, we are a church on a pilgrimage on earth, with the Triune as our true steward. But, it is precisely in such moments that we also feel the Triune as more connected. Yes, we realize known the love of God in all and enable them to feed it. I felt this in a special way when we had a Mass in a little corner at Pandakan Airport, while waiting for our flight. There we were, all 20 of us, gathered in faith and prayer, praying for each other, and praying for others, even for the passersby who may see how through family of us, but perhaps, was here reminded of the presence of God, even if only for a while. At that moment, we knew we counted, and we are still counting.

A synonym with the Lord

Lord, thank you for counting me as one of your children. Teach me to count and what I may be counted with Heaven. Amen.

'The Longest Day'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

(It will) look "The Longest Day," Cornelius Ryan's account about Nazi Reached Berlin Rommel in opposing German defenses on the beaches of northern France on 6th 1944. His fuehrer decided for Adolf Hitler to direct out the coastal fortifications as to take upstream of an expected Allied invasion of Europe. Appalled by what he saw, Rommel ordered renewed efforts on strengthening the "Atlantic Wall" which was to serve as a formidable barrier against a landing force. Hitler and the supreme Nazi Chiefs went into the project and all kinds of deadly obstacles were erected along possible approaches.

On one of his inspection trips along with Capt. Helmut Lang, his 20-year-old aide, Rommel remarked, "The war will be won or lost on the beaches. We will have only one chance to stop the enemy and if he's able to in the sea we are struggling to get ashore, everything we have must be on the coast. The first 24 hours of the invasion will be decisive. . . . Not the Allies as well as the Germans, it will be 'the longest day.'" That's how the phrase came about; it was a wartime general who coined it.

Ryan was June 6 chosen as D-Day? On May 17, 1944, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, had decided that D-Day would be June 5 or June 6, depending on the weather. There were nine critical weather requirements for the invasion: a late rising moon and at dawn, a low tide. The airborne assault required a cover of darkness until the troops were over the drop zone, while the seaborne landings had to take place after the high tide was low, leaving which the enemy's obstacles on the sea so that the boats could be exposed.

Of the three possible days, Eisenhower had originally selected the 5th. But on Sunday, the 4th, he decided to postpone the movements because of rainstorms and the weather conditions. On the night of June 4, while storms were battering the coast, his chief meteorologist Group Captain J.M. Stagg presented a report offering a ray of hope for improved conditions for the 6th. Some historians have called Stagg's report "history's most important one word bit by one."

After polling his commanders one by one, Eisenhower made his decision: Tuesday, June 6th would be D-Day.

* * *

On the other side of the fence, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was preparing to leave for a few days' rest in Germany. He had worked the coastline since June after May an assessment would not come the second most weeks. There was also a very special reason for wanting to be home on Tuesday, June 6. It was the birthday of his wife, Lucie Maria. When he received reports of the invasion at his country home in Herrlingen, all he could say was, "Now stupid of me! How stupid of me!" Ironically, the general Germany general of World War II was on the sidelines at the start of the war's most decisive battle.

* * *

Two great movies have been made of this historic moment 60 years ago. The first, "The Longest Day," in black and white, featured a multicast of Hollywood stars like Robert Mitchum, John Wayne and Henry Fonda, while the second, in color, "Saving Private Ryan" starring Tom Hanks, won an Academy Award for its direction.

Today, leaders from most of the nations which participated in Operation Overlord (code name for the invasion of Europe) are gathering on the beaches of Normandy to honor the more than 9,000 men who were killed or wounded in one of the most crucial engagements of the 20th century. The participants are an interesting mixture of personalities and positions. In 1944, the Allies led by President D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Charles De Gaulle, were united in their fight against Nazi Germany. Sixty years later, the United States and the United Kingdom are still the best of Allies, but this time they are at odds with France and Germany on the question of Iraq. It brings to mind the old saying, in this world there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests.

* * *

Why is it that (not) time the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) comes out with a premature advertisement in the newspapers announcing the incumbent of the government service has something to say about GSIS services? Usually, the ads trumpet the achievements of the agency or publicize the services being offered in its membership.

Last Monday, the GSIS came out with a three-page ad placed in color to tell a multibillion grand client general manager on the money. This kind of paid publicity would easily cost the office not less than half a million pesos. The occasion was the 30th anniversary of the GSIS, highlighting the milestone (but have been lost) to most of the government employees as rights following the publication of the supplement was followed by complaints. This time no less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was on the firing line. According to an Inquirer report, the Supreme Court chief "castigated the GSIS for the sloppy record-keeping," stating as well that this failure to maintain accurate records was "a violation of the trust fund doctrine." Apparently even his own GSIS records were to bad shape. Now if this can happen to the Chief Justice, one can imagine how the people believe are dating. Of course, this went unnoticed by the other top GSIS officials scurrying in the Supreme Court with apologies and explanations.

Kerry foreign policy action blurred in Asia

NEWS ANALYSIS

Martin Nesirky

SEOUL—If U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry has been carefully mapping out his strategies for Asia, so far the response in Asia to his has been blurred.

Foreign policy analysts, commentators and media do not provide a uniform picture, but on the pronouncement of Kerry, they are at least at liberty to speculate on what a Kerry win in the November US election might mean for Asian relations with Washington.

Drawn took a broader, if less analytical approach.

"I don't know much about Mr. Kerry," said Dia Tanumihardjo, a prominent Indonesian Muslim leader. "But it seems he's more in tune with the reality of foreign affairs." Kerry's 20-year stint in the Senate "suggests his commitment to multilateralism with President George W Bush's pre-election lack of foreign policy experience. Mr Bush has forged ties with Asian leaders, notably Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and bilateral relations with China and Taiwan.

"If I were able, to vote, I would vote for a challenger for Taiwan," said Lai Chung-yi of the Institute of European and American Studies at the top Academia Sinica think-tank.

"Compared with Bush, Kerry said his team are less friendly toward Taiwan." In the past week, Kerry has pointed to Bush's failure of the Chinese military threat, including including US offensive God he said Bush had shredded.

Kerry also did some fence mending, notably saying he would open direct talks with North Korea's Kim Jong-il, who has been shunned by Bush administration as an "evil" regime.

Kerry's comments on nuclear weapons appear calibre than ratcheting up anti-terrorist rhetoric that Bush administration considers the best way to solve the problem.

And then the war on terror in Afghanistan and Pakistan, a new government on India and a boom in "offshoring" service jobs there, concerns about China's economy going slow, Islamic militants in Indonesia, the upcoming visit Taiwan, and simmering tensions between Taiwan and mainland China, Kerry's foreign policy experience looks set to be tested from the start.

Much weather the response to Kerry is varied. **Take Pakistan**

"The Bush-declared political heroes in Pakistan may get encouragement with the victory of Kerry and the United States might move away refusing to human rights," said Hidayat Ahmed, professor of international relations at Karachi University.

"But overall relations would remain as strong as they are because the United States needs Pakistan in its war on terror and it cannot afford to abandon the country to unrest [Kerry, which is in control of a nuclear arsenal," Iftikhar Hussain, head of Defense and Strategic Studies at Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam University took a different view.

"I think there is much greater understanding of Pakistan's security needs and concerns in the Bush White House than would be the case if Kerry moves in," he said. "I don't think South Asia will command the kind of attention in the Bush White House." A Kerry administration could bring changes to its more strained relations with South Korea, said Kim Sung-hoon of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security in Seoul.

"There is no doubt a Kerry presidency would be a good opportunity to bring new momentum," said Kim. "It just does not feel the same as running. I don't all very again with the same Bush administration." But he said Washington cleared view can't be based as part of bigger picture that includes China and Japan. Relations with Tokyo, he reminded, be raised about South Korea because his administration got along so well with Prime Jun Hoining, an international strategy expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the Democrats had little impact on the improving trend in Sino-US relations.

"There is a major trend in Sino-US relations and Democrat or not in the amount it is influenced by individuals," Jun said. "Of course there will be issues and topics." Drawn that planet's major role in terms of the Chinese military will rule on North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Kerry has said he would also be open to bilateral talks with Pyongyang—something the North has insisted all along.

"You have to wonder if it is something to be overly excited about," said Kim of Kerry's idea. "It's a double-edged sword. It's going to take some cautious thinking on whether it is closely related to the US election or not." Kim said the North has assumed all along.

"Bush is more comfortable with the hegemonic approach," said Kim of Kerry's idea. "It's a double-edged sword. It's going to take some cautious thinking on whether it is closely related to the US election or not." Kim said the North has assumed all along.

"Bush is more comfortable with the hegemonic approach," said Kim of Kerry's idea. "It's a double-edged sword. It's going to take some cautious thinking on whether it is closely related to the US election or not." Kim said the North has assumed all along.

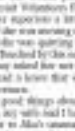
"I don't think we should over-emphasize of this point things that include political theatre," said Dia official.

(Reuters)

Sources of hope

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



One evening almost a year ago, I found my youngest daughter in a solemn huddle with her mother. I immediately sensed I was about to have a disclosure for which I could prepared. "Mister, something to tell us," my wife said, confirming my intuition. "We're going to have a baby," I blurted blanched. "We're not! Impossible!"

She frowned in mock anger, and countered, "Of course not! But if you give me permission and I'm accepted, I will be going away for a while," he replied. I gasped for a sec. "I have applied to be a Jesuit volunteer," she said calmly, as if we hadn't thought. I used her to the question, trying to be a nun. I didn't know how to respond. But slowly a warm glow spread through my chest and I was moved.

Among our four children, she has always been the methodical and deliberate one. Other sensitive and intellectual than were due to her training as an economist or volunteer she had obtained necessary training because it measured her innate personality. In any case, it was consistent to have an organized mind in a family of solitary liberals.

It's been almost five years since she began searching for Unilever, a global firm with a huge presence in the Philippines. She graduated with an approved license before her graduation from the University of the Philippines, she joined the seminary right after passing the accountancy board. She worked till 6 to 12 hours a day, regularly coming home not earlier than 10 p.m. Worried about her well-being, I would ask her why she was subjecting to her about three long working hours and asking if she was happy at work. My inquiry surprised her. I realized I was talking to someone of a new generation of highly disciplined and driven young people who watched kind and pushed hard.

Forgot to a flight, she earned a big part of her earnings for graduate studies abroad to refill as for a private mentor to some between place. She liked going out with friends on Friday and Saturday evenings. She was homegrown in every way. Her values, she said, were those of her parents, role models. I once asked her if she considered to stay in the country after graduation. She said she would, but only if she could find a job that would allow her to practice her values. I was amazed by her answer. I thought that another she was just passing through a quarter-century crisis and needed time to rethink. She promised she was not that old, assurance that at 24 her mother and I already had our first child, and had both of us more by then already fully established in academic careers.

But left her Tuesday to live three hours from Manila where she is assigned to receive the students in Mathematics at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Parish in Dinalupihan, Pampanga. She will be tutoring and living with about 40 grade school and high school girls from the surrounding communities who are enrolled in a dormitory education program. She has always dreamed of becoming a teacher. If she succeeds in getting over only half of these girls enough motivations to skip early marriages for a chance at personal growth, I know she will have accomplished her purpose.

I think my wife and I are lucky to have children who deeply love their country and are not afraid to do problems. But I'm also aware that there are in that sense extraordinary. There are many kids from their generation—young, highly motivated Filipinos who without fanfare do what they can to create better nations.

I've often mentioned what it is that keeps me going as a columnist—finding people, their hope and hearing the country that these values have survived so badly. This is my true source. I think it is the capacity to live in hope. Rational considerable fear, risk not what the country can do for you but what you can do for the country. Some of the best leaders, in the noble pursuit of citizenship. Others, like this year's CLPP Professors who will be working in the country's most underserved communities, think of it spiritually as rendering a personal relationship with God by living a passion for others. I think of it as the fulfillment of the search for the right balance between the twin demands of self-creation and of moral solidarity.

For all the dark thoughts we often harbor about our country, I truly think we are far from doomed as a nation. Our children give us hope.

Comment to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Parliamentary antics

IT'S Day 19 of the joint session of Congress for the convening of the veto over for president and vice president in the May 10 polls.

As the sun rises on morning, there is reason to be optimistic that the June 30 can all date for the proclamation of the president who will serve for the next six years may not be met. It that happens (hopefully, it does not), the country would face a serious constitutional crisis.

The ongoing circus is costing the taxpayers at least P4 million daily. This amount does not include the emoluments being paid to solicitor general Alfredo Benipayo, who is the chief counsel of President Joseph Estrada five years ago.

At his celebrated ornamental candidate Rep. Dakpan El. Imperial has managed to get the lion's share of the limelight. His "clean up, clear up" remarks have already become part of street vocabulary. He has become a pain in the neck of his colleagues, who name the canvassing to move faster. Would he have acted differently if he had won a seat in the Senate?

Unparliamentary

Name-calling and personal insults usually marked the discussion on the manner the votes shall be canvassed. This before or is out of sync in a legislative body whose duties of procedure emphasize respect and courtesy for one another during the deliberations.

On several occasions, the suspensions and sessions rallied at the same time. They acted as if their lives depended on being able to grab the microphone and say what was on their minds at that particular moment. Interruptions like "stupid" and "idiot" were freely exchanged. The same is language and setting took a backseat. The congressional correspondents must have had a tough time recording the explosive and unforgettable remarks during the debates.

Predictably, no member of Congress has had to be physically forced out of the session hall for unruly behavior, although Dilnagalen may have come close when he refused to stop arguing on an issue that had already been settled by the rules committee chip.

If the criteria the Movie Television Review and Classification Board uses for radio and TV programs were applied to the joint canvass, the "unparliamentary" remarks and disorderly conduct of some lawmakers would have merited a "R" rating (restricted). Only those 18 years and above would be allowed per explaining to their young children why these senators and congressmen are acting that way.

Political mahjong

Barring any major political upheaval, majority of the senators and congressmen present in the ongoing canvass are expected to complete the "parliament" that will be formed to enact the laws that will guide the parliamentary system of government starting through.

Regardless of the form adopted—the French style which has a powerful president at the helm of government or the British type which has a prime minister with real power—the legislative branch (or parliament) plays a major role in the operation of the government.

Under the parliamentary system, the legislature performs significant executive functions on top of its law-making duties and responsibilities. There is a thin line that delineates the executive from the legislative. Except in the area of implementation of policies, the two branches of government can easily encroach on a single entity.

The success of the parliamentary system in the countries that have adopted it depends on the ability of the executive and senate of representability of the members of parliament. The political parties (they represent have clear and defined political ideologies. Party discipline is strict. The party's platform of government takes precedence over its members' personal political ambitions. It would take very strong reasons for party members to defy the instructions of the party whip.

The point is not that the MPs (or members of parliament) for the British system) or deputies (for the French style) do not engage in partisan politics. They do and how. But the fact that they have a direct stake in the operation of the government—whether as part of the majority that holds the reins of power or the minority that will take over in case the former loses its mandate—it keeps them constantly focused on the page in the game without losing sight of the greater interest of their constituents.

Expectations

If the conduct of the senate-and-congressional-canvass-now-week-six sessions of presidential and vice presidential votes is used as benchmark, it looks like the parliamentary system will not work in our country in the manner the proponents of that idea envisioned.

How can there be efficiency in the enactment of important legislations when three or four lawmakers can possibly arise for five days on the issue of how the canvass should be conducted? The yes and no of parents send back and forth, over and over again, as if the completion of the business at hand was something that was not subject to an important deadline.

Hands-on involvement in the operation of government is an essential element of the parliamentary system. The members of parliament who break an executive edict is obliged to make himself available when the exigencies of the service requires his physical presence.

Can we expect the same kind of discipline from lawmakers who spend the entire session time or two hours after the originally agreed schedule of their opening, or have to be threatened with suspensions to encourage them to report for work?

The parliamentary system looks good on paper. But considering the quality of the people who will constitute its lawmaking component, we may have to look again and see if it will work here.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE (The National Association of Philippine Newspapers)

TALK of the TOWN

Otto Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Do students need a bridge program?

STARTING June 21, half of the 1.4 million students, who finished Grade 6 in the country's public education system last school year, will go through a one-year bridge program before entering the regular four-year high school.

The 700,000 students have not mastered thirty elementary English, Math and Science, according to the Department of Education (DepEd).

Results of the test conducted by DepEd last month showed that almost all the elementary school graduates scored below 75 percent, the cut-off commonly used in school exams. Less than one percent of the examinees got grades of at least 75 percent.

Because of its limited resources, DepEd has decided to let half of the elementary graduates repeat first year high school.

The others (still, who scored less than 30 percent in the High School Readiness Test, will undergo the pre-high school tutorial class. They will in effect be taking Grade 7, which some private schools are already offering.

They can go on to first year high school only when they pass the three core subjects.

The bridge program is part of DepEd's efforts to improve the quality of basic education. (elementary and high school) in the country. Before the bridge program, the country offered 10 years of basic education compared with 11 to 12 years in most other countries.

Program will benefit students

By Edilberto de Jesus
Adviser
Department of Education

The task of raising the level of competency of the basic education must begin with a recognition of its magnitude and severity. The unfavorable results of the High School Readiness Test (HSRT) administered on May 24 provide a warning point.

The HSRT results produced no surprises. The scores were consistent with those recorded in the three other diagnostic tests that the Department of Education (DepEd) had conducted starting in 2002. Only 0.02 percent of the examinees achieved grades of 75 percent and above, indicating that virtually all of the students entering the high school system would benefit from an additional year of preparation in the national level courses of English, Science and Math.

Given resource constraints, however, DepEd can only accommodate roughly 50 percent of the elementary school graduates entering into high school. We will take the lower 50 percent of the cohort, those who scored under 50 percent in the HSRT.

Tabled points

We must be careful not to attribute the low scores to the failure of either the students or the teachers. The results for the former are certainly due to the inadequate resources allocated to public education. The latter are macroeconomic realities that affected the grades given to students contributed to choosing an option the real competence levels of their entry achieving.

We must also take account of the testing organizations (for two years in a row), which not allow it to return to the previous use of preparatory employees about the knowledge and skills job applicants must bring to the market.

Poor education authorities must have recognized these survey expectations. According to one Japanese researchers, the nationwide test give to students in first year high school math are more complex and more difficult than what is given to Japanese students in a comparable range. We surviving to teach more, but the students are not surviving the learning more. If we are teaching too much, is a probable because we are trying to cover in 10 years what the Japanese do in 12.

Those who enroll in the Bridge Program will have seven years of preparation for the secondary education cycle.

Critics

Critics of the program, who denounce the government for not investing enough in education, now decry this investment in the kids who will need the extra year of the basic education cycle as eleven years. They do not believe that such a system is supporting only 10 years of basic education, since most college courses in countries giving them students from 11 to 13 years of pre-university education. In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, even Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia support 11 years of basic education.

Ironically, those who loudly proclaim their identity with the downscalable masses are also the loudest in promoting his program to provide in the public school system a three-tiered mix of private high school education that more affluent families pay for (in the country's elite private schools).

Families will incur additional expenses for an additional year of schooling, but these will not compare with the 50% to 100 The government will also have four years to prepare for the additional costs of a fifth year of high school.

Serious oversight

The Bridge Program is a move in addressing a fifty-year oversight. It provides to the public school system what it had been trying to provide for the 1940 education administration already had an 11-year basic education cycle until the late colonial elementary schooling from seven to six years.

Unfortunately, the second year of the reform was never implemented, the addition of two years to high school. The interim was to establish a basic admission cards of 12 and test 1 features: six years of elementary school, three years of junior, and three years of senior, high school, which is the minimum in many countries today.

Even with the Bridge Program, my basic education reform would still be one less short of what had been recommended over six decades ago. But it is a step in the right direction.

The benefits of the Bridge Program will not materialize overnight. But still the Program, by itself, resolve 40 of the problems facing the education system. It is not a miracle quick fix, nor a magic bullet. There are no such solutions for education.

Make every year count

By Antonio L. Tinio
Chair
Alliance of Concerned Teachers

We support the Department of Education's (Dep-Ed) decision to institute Bridge Program because it does not add to the woes (some of the day-long decline in the quality of education in our public schools). It will even improve the quality of education in the long run. It removes thousands and hundreds of many poor families and burdens deprive their children of the right to a high school education.

The two opening results of the Mindanao Readiness Test (MRT) given by DepEd to public elementary school graduates on May 24 reveal that, on average, these students have mastered a mere 40 percent of the competencies (in English, 39%, and 50 percent) they are supposed from interviewing high school freshmen. These results are symptomatic of the deep crisis in our public schools, not to mention economic and families.

Budget freeze

While some observers have been quick to lay the blame on the alleged incompetence of the teachers, the problem is far more systemic and has its roots in government budget priorities. The government has been starving the education sector with the neo-liberal prescription of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Since the mid-1980s the government has imposed a budget freeze on spending for basic education. While the DepEd budget increases nominally, this increase is usually not enough to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Budget has not grown significantly since 1997 (the year of the Asian financial crisis).

Enrollment in public schools increases but, given the government budget freeze, education budget is short by a massive P60 billion. The budget freeze has created untold levels of shortages of teachers, classrooms, and other key resources in our public schools. These shortages have been dramatically under the Macapagal administration. In 2001, there was a classroom shortage of 8,441 and a teacher shortage of 27,720. These days, round at 42,616 classrooms and 93,315 teachers (an increase of 500 percent and 336 percent, respectively).

Class size

As a result, the typical class size (arguable the single most decisive factor determining quality of education) in our public schools now ranges from 60 to 70 students per teacher, by such an environment, compounded by the lack of textbooks, laboratory and other facilities, and in spite of the best efforts of teachers and students, should not be surprised that this level of elementary graduates have done so poorly in the HSRT!

When students, parents, and teachers find even harder to accept is that the DepEd budget cut is the result of orchestrated corruption, which has in the report is linked to sales of basic assets. Instead to improve the quality of education, it now is opening the floodgates of the flawed system (the approximately 500,000 elementary school graduates who failed to make the 75 percent cut-off for the HSRT) to make up an additional year of crowded classes...the year of which is in no way of use and would still be better clearly by the student themselves.

The government alone have an obligation to provide remedial classes for these students. Unfortunately, DepEd is putting for the Bridge Program (which is forced to classes) little or no additional cost to the government. Low or remedial classes are those other schemes by remedial classes are possible. They could be categorized into the first year high school curriculum but would require relatively additional funding from the government.)

Dropouts

It appears that the officials of DepEd do not fully appreciate how costs are an additional year of school will be for the vast majority of Filipino families. Families will need to spend P6,000 to P10,000 to send a child to an additional year of high school—a substantial sum for our population, 70 percent of whom live on P82 or less per day, and 8.1 million of whom are unemployed or underemployed.

Many families simply cannot afford to send their children to an additional year of school. Currently, only 40 percent of grade 1 students go on to finish high school. We expect that even more students will drop out of high school altogether since the Bridge Program is implemented.

This is one challenge to the government: before it even thinks of adding another year, make sure that one of the existing 10 years of basic education exists. Find the people to teach, provide the tools and make sure that our public school system desperately needs.

Defective textbooks lead to the miseducation of Filipinos

By Antonio Calipjo Go
Academic supervisor
Philippine School of Quezon City

The decision to implement the five-year High School Program is a timely move of the Department of Education. It is over the length of time a child spends in school that matters but the quality of learning he receives.

Many factors contribute to the poor quality of teaching in many Philippine schools; inadequate facilities, faulty curricula and the lack of basic facilities such as classrooms, desks and chairs. However, the most serious problem contributing to the poor performance in the quality of Filipino students.

A textbook presents a body of knowledge in an organized manner for purposes of learning. It is frequently the most important learning tool. Instruction can deteriorate into only value will be taught but also how it will be taught. Poor learning produces holes and faults and contributes to the development of attitudes, rules of conduct and rules of thought...the content and problem-solving skills needed to make responsible changes in the way students think, behave and believe.

The implementation of the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) precipitated the mass production of textbooks, which conform to the requirements of the new system. However, many in this new breed of BEC-compliant textbooks have turned out to be just as bad as those they have supplanted.

A textbook in Filipino for second year high school published by Diwa Scholastic Press—"Pilia in Panahon ng Mahalagang Film: Gamitan" (Selection in English: Film Time: Use)—is an outstanding example of the defective BEC-compliant textbook. Its errors include:

1. Mistaken selection. Lesson three (Mensahe at Tao) features the economic program of former president Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada in glowing terms. A second year high school student reading about Marcos and Estrada's present achievements for the first time will come out of this reading experience believing that Marcos was indeed a great man.

The opening remark sets the tone: "Sa mga mga pagbabagong naganap sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng dating pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, isang pinoy ng pagbag- sa kanyang mga tahanan ang kanyang pinagtuunan ng pansin. Isa sa mga ito ang pagtatayo ng mga subdivision" (In the changes that took place during the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos, one Filipino focused his attention on building homes. One of these was the construction of subdivisions).

Then the students were distributing subsidies by senator Loren Legarda: "Ayon kay Loren Legarda, isang mahusay na senador, mula 1998 hanggang 2001 ay nakapagbigay siya ng mga tulong pinansyal sa mga mahihirap na mamamayan sa buong bansa na umaabot sa halagang P 5 bilyon" (According to Loren Legarda, a good senator, from 1998 to 2001 she was able to give financial assistance to poor citizens throughout the country amounting to P5 billion).

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[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Election personnel in 2 Mindanao areas not paid for duties

COTABATO CITY—Public school teachers and non-teachers who served as members of the board of election inspectors during the May 10 election here and in Maguindanao have been complaining of not receiving their individual honoraria of P3,000 each.

They said they brought the complaint to the Commission on Elections and the Department of Education but the officials could only tell them to wait because their payment "is [still] in process (sic)."

However, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told a radio station here that she was surprised after learning of the non-release of the honoraria.

P5 billion

Boncodin said those who served in the elections should have already received P2,000 as initial payment for their services because the Department of Budget and Management had released over P5 billion to Namfrel for that purpose in April yet.

Boncodin said the remaining P3,000 would be released to the teachers once the Comelec and the Namfrel had submitted their validation reports.

"I suspect something irregular has happened," she said upon learning those who served in the elections have yet to receive any pay.

Somebody said there should have been no problem in the release of the honoraria because initial funds were already transmitted for the purpose.

Questions

"Why is this so?" she asked.

Bai Sakiporin, an education official in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the excuse for the delay in the payment of the honoraria honoraria is the enrollment of the board of election inspectors is the delay in the submission of a validation report of the actual services rendered.

He offered no explanation why the initial release was not fulfilled.

Banking Depot officials in the region could not be reached for comment. Chai Bo C. Delfino, PDI Mindanao Bureau

INTRODUCTION Schoolchildren in Pilili, North Cotabato chill around their fellow students using computers to browse the Internet.

Stolen ballots stall special polls

TARLAC CITY—The second special elections that was scheduled yesterday for four villages in Tingkayan, Kalinga, has been postponed for Monday (June 7), after the ballots intended for the first aborted special polls were reported missing.

Police said the bodies of three ballot boxes, which were intended for the recent elections in four Tingkayan villages, were not destroyed, indicating that the accounts could be officials who had access to the ballot boxes' keys.

Senior Supt. James Dagan, Kalinga police director, said the town Kalinga's residents had shown overwhelming the conduct of the special elections was crucial a free and fair vote.

This prevented the Commission on Elections from delivering the ballots for the first special elections on May 10.

Dagan said Kalinga is known for its tribal violence, but can now actually dies during elections is exaggerated, he said. Also encountered election-related violence ever before the May 10 elections.

"We were so keep it that way," he said.

"In Abra, the police deal with hired guns, but here in Kalinga, people are more cautious because [the] ballots for the first special election are kept in tribal code of peace settlements and boundary agreements (is ensured)," he said.

Dagan said the special elections in Tingkayan would involve the tribes of Lubuagan, Tulgao and Pasbat, which recently resolved their community conflicts.

The Comelec en banc authorized the special elections in the villages of Dinamlao, Bulbol, Tulgao East and Tulgao West because ballot boxes used in the villages were snatched by armed men on May 11.

But villagers reportedly decided to barricade the new elections on May 22 to prevent politicians from disrupting their thinking, according to a petition that was sent to the Comelec.

Dagan said Comelec officials and their military escorts left Tingkayan after they were met with a human barricade. He said police information told the officials that snipers were around the area, prompting them to withdraw to avoid a violent encounter.

The ballots were brought back to the capital town of Tabuk, where villagers from Tingkayan had scampered. Police were assigned to guard the ballot boxes but a thunderstorm forced the officials to seek shelter inside the Tabuk municipal hall.

On May 10, the police discovered 1,252 ballots missing from the ballot boxes, although the locks were not damaged, Dagan said. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

18,000 bags of smuggled sugar worth P25M seized from 3 ships in Batangas

BALAYAN, Batangas—Authorities have intercepted three ships loaded with 18,000 bags of smuggled sugar.

Men from the Philippine Navy and the Batangas police made the seizure on June 3, barely four months after the closure of the Batangas Sugar Exchange Inc. (Basaco) allegedly used by smugglers and ruined years of a sugar shortage in the province.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magalong, Batangas police chief, said the seized shipments were worth P25 million.

The ships were identified as MV Elisa, MV Veronica and MV Claudia.

Reports from the BFMO intelligence section said three more suspected vessels of Philippine Flour in Balayan Bay loading and unloading bags of sugar.

The government operatives intercepted the ships and arrested five crew members.

Maj. Jose Bonto, chief of the Southern Luzon Unified Command based in Lucena City said at least 7,000 sacks had already been loaded into the barge MV Veronica from the MV Elisa and ready to be transported to the ports.

Another sea vessel alongside MV Elisa, identified as MV Dario, was also apprehended.

He said the MV Elisa has no certificate of registration, no certificate of inspection and no cargo manifest of the last port of call where apprehended by the authorities.

He said the supposed consignees of the smuggled sugar from Iloilo identified as sugar dealers from Batangas and Sta. Ana, Manila.

Bonto said a certain Tony Bautista owned MV Elisa.

An operation report identified a certain Jesus Lucas as the vessel's operator, which is being manned by at least 17 crewmen.

The government authorities traced the ownership of the barges to a certain Or Enrique with address at #99 Barcelona St., Binondo, Manila.

When apprehended, the barges was being operated by Danilo Cadiya and his crewmen from Pandacan, Manila while the MV Elisa was being operated by one Rilario Adriano and had 19 crewmen on board, Bonto said.

The sea vessel was also found carrying an expired certificate of registration.

Arrested from MV Elisa were Linus, ship captain and resident of Cebu City; Andres Umalla, 2nd engineer, from Zamboanga del Sur; Jose Layosa, shipmate, from Zamboanga del Norte; Bienido Sulit Jr., oiler, from Siquijor Island; Alexander Dumaul, welder, from Zamboanga del Sur; Rolando Dalmasan, quarter master, from Cordoba City; Mideo Bajenia, seaman, from Zamboanga del Norte; Ismael Bada, mess operator, from Agusan del Norte; Alberto Remolino, radio operator, from Cebu City, and Celso Lema, ship engineer, from Quezon province.

Arrested from MV Victoria were Danilo Guillermo, purser chief, from Bacolod City and Neil Ocsan, checker, from Cebu City.

From MV Claudia, also known as MV Erika, the team arrested Edgardo Montalbo, major person, a resident of Tingloy Island, Batangas; Renato Bonit, quarter master, from Navotas, Metro Manila; Nathaniel Cangas, oiler, from Bacoods, Manila; Jovenal Guillermo, radio operator, from Cebu City; Charlie Gaspar, oiler, from Bacoods, Manila; Silvestre Baja, merchanic, from Iloilo, and Ismael Francisco, an oiler, from Aklan. Mel Magtoto and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI South Luzon Bureau

2 boys sue priest for sex offense

CITY OF SAN PEDRO—Two 15-year-old boys, represented by a teacher and a social worker, filed a complaint for acts of lasciviousness against a Catholic priest last week.

The boys, both Bangkal arrears [illegible] of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Pacolabon, Pampanga, filed the case at the provincial prosecutor's office.

In their separate affidavits on May 27 submitted to the National Bureau of Investigation, the boys claimed that Msgr. Greg Cortez molested them.

The alleged abuse occurred conveniently from November 2003 to May this year inside the priest's bedroom in the parish convent.

The boys claimed that the priest, who is his 50s, intervened them not to talk about what happened, saying that reputation would be damaged.

They said Cortez had given them food, shopping money and allowances since the alleged abuse started.

The boys said they had failed to reach Cortez since Friday forwarding to one of his colleagues, Cortez had gone on leave.

Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto did not issue any statement on the issue. Ronalyn Ocampo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF BULACAN
PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT AND TREASURY OFFICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We would like to remind everyone who owns a building, house, lot, machine and other forms of real property in the **province of Bulacan to pay your due real property tax on time to avoid penalty**. Here are the deadlines of payment for each quarter:

Second Quarter - June 30, 2004
(April to June)

Third Quarter - September 30, 2004
(July to September)

Fourth Quarter - December 31, 2004
(October to December)

(SGD.) BELINDA B. BARTOLOME
Provincial Treasurer

Cops claim arrest of Sayyaf suspect

By John Aljosh
PIA Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police authorities on Friday announced the arrest of another suspected Abu Sayyaf member here.

Supt. Mario Tenga, city police director, said Al Hakim Mikmal, 20, was arrested by joint elements of the Regional Intelligence Operatives of the Western Mindanao Police and of the city police in Barangay Santa Maria around 5 p.m. Thursday.

Tenga said Ammad, a native of Indo, was being sought for kidnapping.

Sen Mayor Dan Cabasag of Kabuguduhan Cabasag town in Indo, said Ammad's arrest was a case of mistaken identity.

The Abu Sayyaf suspect is Cabasag's cousin.

"They are arresting innocent people. It's a case of mistaken identity," Cabasag told the Inquirer.

Cabasag said his cousin, who is also related to Interior Secretary Abdusakur Tan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is a varsity basketball player of the Western Mindanao State University here, where he was taking a food technology course.

The police said Ammad, alias Abo Hatashi, was arrested while practicing basketball in Santa Maria.

"Tenga urged Ammad's relatives to hire a lawyer because the police only enforced a warrant of arrest issued by a court against the suspect.

TRIBUTE TO CITRUS
The government of Bayambang, Pangasinan province, organized a feast in tribute of citrus, one of the town's biggest products, featuring street performers wearing costumes.

Workers, employers again tackle wage hike in C. Visayas

By Alex Pal
PIA Visayas Bureau

BARGAINING CITY—Labor and management are again deadlocked on the issue of a wage increase in Central Visayas.

While labor has sought a minimum across-the-board increase of P50, the management—mainly represented by sugar planters and millers in Negros Occidental—said a wage hike should be discretionary to an industry already having a hard time coping with the effects of imported sugar.

The sugar planters and millers also cited the increases production cost brought on by increases in the price of oil products and fertilizers.

The management and labor representatives tackled the petition of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) filed last April 30 for a P50 increase or a four-tag-fold hour Thursday by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB).

The TUCP cited as basis for their petition the increased prices of prime commodities, increased taxes in electricity and water, continuing increases in deregulated oil prices and the rise in the Consumer Price Index from 54.1 in June 1989 to 107.9 in March 2004.

Separate petition

A separate petition filed by the Alliance in Mainstream in Sugar Alliance Mgm Inc (AIM-SOUDE) for a P80 increase for board increase filed on April 22, 2004 on the continuing increases in oil prices, the erosion of the purchasing power of the peso and the economic crisis at least for the increase.

The consensus wage raises from place to place in Central Visayas. The rates are also different for agriculture and non-agriculture workers. Agricultural workers in the sugar industry also have different minimum wage rates.

The minimum non-agriculture wage for cities in Metro Cebu is P300. Other cities and towns in Cebu have a minimum wage rate of P190, while for Negros Oriental and Bohol, the rate is P180. In Siquijor, the minimum wage rate is P175.

For agriculture workers who are not in the sugar industry, the rate is P155 for Metro Cebu, P175 for the rest of Cebu province, P145 for Negros Oriental and Bohol and P135 for Siquijor. Sugar workers in Negros Oriental have a minimum rate of P150.

Not enough

Representatives of the labor sector who attended the hearing argued the two problems, saying the minimum wage of P380 for Bacolodnon is not enough to meet the basic costs of living. Cesar Tiong, president of the Foundation University teachers' union, said someone in their group even proposed a P500 increase, but they settled for P80, as they were also thinking of the repercussions of such a proposal on management.

But Francisco Martinez, executive director of the Negros Oriental Investment Promotions Board, said that the P20 difference in the minimum wage between Negros Oriental and Cebu should even be made wider, because Cebu is more productive than Negros Oriental.

"Cebu is an export oriented province. Cebu is also predominantly based while workers in Negros Oriental are time-based, because they are paid daily instead of being paid based on their output," Martinez said.

Status quo

The other reason given by the management group in maintaining a status quo is that the growth rate for Negros Oriental at Bal. They recommended that instead of a new wage hike, government should work towards maintaining the purchasing power of the workers. "If government doesn't do this, any wage increase will always be inflationary," Martinez said.

Speaking for the sugar industry, lawyer Mariviones Cornelio of the Central Azucarera de Bais, said the proposed wage hike would have a tremendous impact on the finances of the estimated 5,000 planters who still with CAB. He estimated that at 9 hectares per planter, the total number of workers in the farms which will with CAB would number around 45,000. With a report from Rosanne Rappallozon, PIA Visayas Bureau.

Gov asks PNP to probe ex-NPAs' gun violation

By Carla P. Gomez
PIA Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon has called on the police to determine whether the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) violated the election gun ban when one of its members fired a rifle grenade from an M-16-assault rifle and injured 9 PNP fighters and a minor.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, chair of the Joint Environment Monitoring Committee tasked with monitoring preliminary peace agreement between the RPA and government, said they would check whether the RPA member who fired the grenade rifle had a gun ban exemption.

Under the peace agreement

100 RPA members were given permits to carry firearms.

It was not, however, specified whether the use of M-16 rifles was covered.

The local monitoring team of the JEMC will be asked to look into the incident in Cadiz to determine if a violation was committed, Soliman said.

The police said 14 people, among them a minor, were injured. RPA national commander Leopoldo Luciano however insisted that only eight were injured, several of whom were bystanders including an 8-year-old child whose leg was hit by shrapnel.

The rifle grenade exploded during the last day of a three-week PNP-soldiers course in the Ilawa area of Barangay Celestino Villaris, Cadiz City (p.a. Photo).

INQUIRER Mindanao

Sarangani execs taught poll lesson

By Aquilino Zonio
PIA Mindanao Bureau

VOTERS in Sarangani have taught what they call abusive public officials a lesson in life.

Almost all of them lost in their reelection bid, all because of one damning issue—corruption. They were named in the statements of contributions in the systematic looting of barangay treasuries' monies.

The amounts involved was about P41 million. Not so staggering, but quite big for a province, which could not even provide medical services for needy residents.

They paid the price the hard and painful way. Some of them cried out loud after losing in the people's verdict.

Aside from being guilt charges before the Ombudsman, they were ignored during the May 10 elections, a double whammy as to speak.

Gov. Miguel Escobar, Vice Gov. Bilyar Cosmatin and the 12 members of the provincial board have reportedly denied involvement in a multi-million fund scandal. They claimed the charges were public relations-related.

The dissidents did not fear the officials' ability. The people gave more weight to findings of the Commission on Audit and the National Bureau of Investigation, which conducted a separate investigation of the fund scam recently.

COA commissioner in September last year filed the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Escobar and other provincial officials for the misuse and misappropriation of public funds to non-existent barangays.

The NBI, after conducting its own investigation late last year, also recommended the filing of graft charges and falsification of public documents against the said officials.

When the controversy broke out sometime in the middle of last year, multi-sectoral groups denied media and barred an anti-corruption coalition. The group was composed of representatives from the religious, farmers, professional, fisherfolk, labor, transport and youth sectors.

Fr. Fred Magbanua, who was elected chairman of the Sarangani People's Action for Reform and Good Governance's Opinion Core, revealed that he was challenged when one of his parishioners asked him when the Church leaders are going to continue corruption taking place in the provincial government.

A series of meetings ensued to plan the group's course of action.

Aguso Go Jamin led a campaign to make the people aware of what was going on in the provincial government. It held two protest actions to show indignation against the secretly drawing thousands of people from all walks of life in front of the capitol building.

The officials allegedly involved in the scam were asked to resign but they refused, claiming innocence.

In September last year, Ipun Go filed administrative and criminal complaints against Escobar and the other officials and employees before the Office of the Ombudsman-Mindanao.

"We should teach these abusive officials a lesson so future elected officials would refrain the practice with impunity and showing" Magbanua declared.

Invaluable role

Some residents said the local media played a very vital role in enabling Ipun Go to make great strides in its crusade against corruption.

People, they said, were kept abreast of what was happening to the provincial capitol and this helped voters a lot in choosing their officials during the May 10 elections.

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SWEEP
A female worker cleans the area where the canvassing of votes is being held at the Baguio Convention Center.

2 more deaths make list of executions in Davao City longer

DAVAO CITY—As police authorities continue to be in the dark in connection with the series of summary executions here, another shooting occurred in the city on Friday, this time involving two of the city's barangay chiefs.

Police Inspector Ramsay Campos Adrian Villarin Jr. died on the spot after a lone motorcycle-riding gunman shot him at close range in Agdao District around 11 a.m.

Chief Insp. Filmore Escobal, Sta. Ana police chief, said Villarin was riding a motorized tricycle with a bodyguard when he was attacked.

Escobal said Villarin's bodyguard returned fire, killing the self-confessed killer.

The barangay leader had just attended a meeting and was about to go home. The names in which he was killed resembled the style of suspected summary killings here.

But Assemblyman Mansueto, the president of Association of Barangay Captains, said Villarin reported to have disputes with his constituents in the past.

He was not specific, but said police should consider personal grudge as a possible motive.

Escobal said they have yet to conduct a background check on the suspect, who was wearing a vest taken by their Alfredo detail.

Bernardo Simangan, chairperson of the Kalinaw Committee, a non-government organization in the city, said the spate of killings here has become alarming.

He said more than 200 persons have been summarily executed in the city in the past two years.

Simangan lambasted the police for their failure to curb rising criminality.

He said authorities also failed to arrest any suspect in the summary executions.

The police acknowledged that the series of killings have become a headache for it based to acknowledge the existence of a vigilante group, which locals call the Davao Death Squad or DDS.

Major Rodulfo Duterte, who reportedly ordered suspected criminals to either run or die, reportedly denied having ordered or getting any form of blessings to the killings. Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Trapos,' 3 'Gs' still dominate Cordillera polls

BAGUIO CITY—Politics in the Cordillera is still dominated by traditional politicians who use dirty tactics and the three Gs (guns, goons and gold) to hold on to power, the spokesperson of the Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front said.

Ka Filo, CPDF spokesperson, said the May 10 elections failed to change the political landscape in the region when it brought back old names, traditional politicians and old political families to power.

He said stakeholders provided in Abra, where most of the election-related killings and attacks in the region were recorded. He said in Kalinga, politics was characterized by the presence of armed tribal followers of politicians.

In Ifugao, the election turned into the battle of old names in local politics while incumbents were endorsed in Apayao, he said.

Old names

In Mt. Province, incidents of poll-related violence dropped but the voters' preference to support their relatives and friends resulted in the election of politicians who have ruled the province for a long time, he said.

But he said voters in Baguio City and Benguet elected reformists who they chose over leaders "who have too much ground to recognize."

He said "incredible votes" played a difference in the elections in Benguet and Baguio. He described voters in these areas as "examples of empowered masses who wanted political change through their collective effort."

Challenge

Ka Filo said the CPDF, the regional chapter of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, would present to Cordillera politicians various "people's issues," especially those concerning the rights of indigenous people in the region.

"We challenge the politicians to face the problem of national oppression, which is closely manifested in the economic and large scale grabbing of indigenous peoples' lands through mining, construction of dams, logging (the signing of questionable) [sic]," he said.

Dexter Cabalza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tsinoys look at 2010 as good year to enter politics as candidates

BAGUIO CITY—Chinese-Filipinos have always participated in local elections from the sidelines as campaign contributors. The same practice, they said, in Baguio City and La Trinidad, Benguet, where this Pan-Philippines ethnic group has been voting consistently for a score of Chinese descent in Northern Luzon, he said.

Discouraged

He said the Chinese-Filipino community in Baguio usually discouraged their aspiring local politicians from running in the May 10 elections.

Lawyer Fidel Chua-Bondoc made a study that proved them wrong. He said Number drawers said that few Baguio residents would vote for a candidate with a Chinese-sounding name. "Its reverse was to camouflage his ethnicity by using his husband's surname, Bondoc, which is traditionally a political name," Ng said.

Bondoc, a neophyte politician, ranked fourth among the winning city councilors.

Ng said Chinese-Filipino elders normally prepare a Baguio vice mayoralty candidate, Elden Lee, to withdraw Lee, another neophyte politician, belongs to the family who owns the Tiong Sue Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest Baguio enterprises.

Proud

But of the Chinese-Filipino political aspirants in Baguio's two congressional districts, Lee alone carried her ethnicity like a banner, by appending "Tiong Jim" to all her campaign materials. She ended up trailing behind veteran local politicians.

"My friends always joked around that (Cheng) and I were afraid to run for office because we are (in the middle of) 'Ipits.' But they will always end the joke this way: 'The Chinese are already rich, why would they want power?'" Ng said.

"Time is the unanswerable mentality that prevents Chinese-Filipinos from directly participating in elections," he said.

But Ng said Chinese-Filipinos want better representation in governance because they have become vulnerable to corruption and crime. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

IBALOI children wear local attire during a fiesta. The Ibaloi said they have no dictionary or high school entry here.

Ibalois develop own dictionary in wake of poor test results

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Ibaloi Dictionary project is the Cordillera's first born-digital dictionary, a testament to the people's good command of English.

But that reputation has never been needed, as shown by the poor performance of schools like Abra in the Cordillera in the High School Readiness Test (HSRT).

Josephine Palileo, the Department of Education Region 1 elementary graduates in a Baguio school in 2002 by the Department of Education indicated that only 18 finished and Kindergarten children there could barely answer three-out-of-10 English literacy questions.

But local communicators have taken measures to preserve literacy among Cordillera children.

The vegetable-growing town of Sesa, Benguet, has embarked on a project aimed at compiling a complete Kankanaey vocabulary and a directory of its subsistence planters.

Ruth Gochuico-Bacsasa, the community's research coordinator, said Cordillerans' dexterity would help them schoolchildren cope with English-language homework, with the help of Kankanaey-speaking elders.

Ibalois, the indigenous language spoken by residents in Baguio and Benguet, is also being introduced in Baguio schools by architect Andrew Bagamaspad.

Dr. Raffonsie Pangayan, an Ibaloi-Benguet and historian, said Ibalois could help entrepreneurs indigenous Filipinos cope with a challenging global economy.

Pangayan has been consulting for the propagation of Cordillera languages after he outlined that Ibaloi's elusive history and culture with stories of Dap-ayan Lizzon, and poetry of Ines and Bumpay.

Pangayan, Bacsasa, a University of the Philippines Baguio literary professor, said the indigenous language is key to breaking the social stigma that discourages indigenous Filipino children from pursuing formal education.

Rose Ellen Sol, an organizational study into indigenous Filipino education that was commissioned in 2002 by the Department of Education.

Tebelkis Bacsasa, the research group Bendilas, had produced six documented the subtle biases of racism by public schoolteachers and school textbooks that lacked Ibaloi Bagiuo, Bagiuoan, Ayta, Dumagats, Tinguianes, the arts of Balatdoes, the Member of Agusan del Sur, Indonesia and the Dhalmatians and Arts of Davao del Norte.

The study outlined schoolbooks' beliefs that indigenous Filipinos as "backward" and "inferior."

But indigenous Filipino communities will "represent a great desire for formal education, especially for their children," despite the problems with schools, Bendilas wrote in the Tebelkis journal "Indigenous Perspectives."

He said tribe members had told that English, as a teaching medium, "contributes to the indigenous Filipino's discomfort in their own language and culture."

"Many literate and semi-literate elder look into literacy due to the lack of practical applications in their daily lives. This is why all indigenous peoples' rights" studied by Bendilas proposed that literacy numeracy, as well as new technologies, be linked to their livelihoods and daily productive roles," Bendilas said.

Many of the indigenous school children also work in the fields, he said.

Arok started its native encyclopedia and dictionary project in 2003 as a Japanese-funded initiative.

Veggie farmers reject reasons for importation

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Vegetable importers said the government has allowed the importation of vegetables to supply the needs of "high-end hotels" only because value are very particular about the quality of their products.

But farmers, industry leaders and stakeholders have doubted if the imported vegetables were really used by supermarkets only.

They said the entry of imported crops like potatoes and carrots has instead created a glut in the local market.

The reasons for vegetable importation were disclosed in a meeting between farmers, traders and importers for "high-end users" at the Bureau of Plant Industry office in Manila recently.

"High-end users" refer to five-star hotels and restaurants while processors are those who trade pineapple, French fries like McDonald's, Jollibee and McDonald's.

The importers cited two reasons for preferring foreign vegetables. They cater to the right of tourists and their quality is very up to processing.

Local farmers, however, said the DA cannot monitor the importers' end market to determine whether the imported products are really used for processing or for tourists' consumption.

Alberto Alawas, president of the Benguet Vegetable Distributors Cooperative, said imported vegetables were dumped into the local market and this had affected the prices of vegetables from the Cordillera.

Councilor John Kiey, a member of the provincial board, said importers smuggling rackets, and smugglers and illegal vegetables in meeting with Dr. Bernardo Ebro, BPI director, and the importers in a dialogue called by Ochoa to iron out the tension between local farmers and Metro Manila-based importers.

In banning that vegetable imports be stopped, Ebro and Alawas cited the case of McDonald's, a vegetable importer. They said the fries imported pollution-supporting by processing but upon investigation, it was found out that only the Green Power Processing Plant in South Cotabato, is a conversion company as certified by the Department of Trade and Industry.

"The vegetables by imported couldn't have been used in the local market instead," Ebro said.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margot Quimpo Fajnzylber

Living in Dad's shadow (and not minding it)

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Some of accomplished fathers or sons can't wait to get out of their shadows.

Not Fred Ayala, eldest son of Ayalaveo and Manila Bulletin and owner of eMerchant, the largest business-to-business company.

Instead, he is proud to reflect some facet of his late father, whom he described as "the quintessential Christian gentleman."

Fred was only 11 when his father, one of the country's "Ten Outstanding Young Men, passed away in 1976 at age 44.

But he has vivid memories of how, despite his father's busy schedule in both the government (he was a governor of the Board of Investments) and later in the private sector (he was president of the former PCIBank), he always found plenty of time for his four sons and only daughter.

"My fondest memories of him were family trips to Boracay Island, where we used to go quite frequently for New Year's and Easter. He really loved to play with all the kids on the beach," Fred says in an interview.

"From my dad we learned that life should be very simple. If you start with God, then all the rest—loving family and friends, serving your country and endless laughter by watching bowl and playing hard—should follow naturally," Fred adds.

Soon after his father passed away, his mother decided to move with her five young children to Washington D.C. and take on the substantive role of the family's breadwinner.

During his first semester in the US at 17, Fred earned his spending money by flipping burgers and frying chicken at Kenny's, a fast food chain. He got $3 an hour, which in 1977 was enough to cover a meal, to combine that food joint or watch a movie.

He took on studies only after reliably procuring his college degree in finance. Choosing work or studying dollar in the cafeteria and logging online students in and out of the computer laboratory, where he could do his homework at the same time.

He says these minimum wage jobs provided invaluable lessons he would not have been able to get otherwise.

"I learned close work is hard, plain and simple. I also learned from working with people from all walks of life that one's background—schooling and income brackets—are often not the best predictor of success or merit and in life," Fred says.

"Being from the east coast is [a] record. However, it is what you do with your talents that counts and the keys are character and hard work," Fred adds.

After graduating, Fred worked for Chemical Bank in Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia, then for the Central Bank of the Philippines where he was part of the team that negotiated with Paris Club creditors during the crisis-ridden debt crisis.

FRED Ayala with wife, Ina, and sons Christian and Pierre

First job

TODAY Ayala and his children are the proud owners of Avani Contemporary Arts...

After completing his MBA at Harvard, he moved to Prudential Asia, one of the first American-style merchant capital firms to be set up in Asia.

"Coming out of business school, my goal was to help build companies in Asia, including the Philippines," Fred says.

After garnering enough experience, he and two colleagues struck out on their own to found KBK Partners, one of the first private equity firms in the country.

But like private companies, a Philippine-based private equity firm that is a leader in building companies also leverage them to build new businesses/partnering companies. Clients and services (in English-speaking Asian companies).

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Two of its investments are based in the Philippines: ISI Technologies, which has grown to become one of the leading business process outsourcing companies in Asia, and eMerchant, which became the largest business-to-business company after its recent acquisition of Plaza 1, one of the fastest growing call centers in the US.

"I have been lucky enough to have had a chance to work with great people and play a role in the growth of these two companies that have helped promote the BPO and call center sector in the Philippines," he says.

"There are several advantages for the country and they are rapidly promoting thousands of

CONTINUED ON B2

Spotting excellence: Minimizing the risk of a wrong hire

WHERE that IQ and EQ, AQ or one's Adversity Quotient, will determine how well he will perform in an organization.

Among the functions only mastered a company can commit is to hire the wrong people but buy jobs, according to Singapore-based management consultancy firm, GTI Consulting.

Despite who don't fit in dent only waste a company's time and resources, they also hinder a company from achieving its desired goals and have a direct effect on the bottom line, points out Rustiah Pamaran, managing director of GTI Consulting's Philippine operations.

To minimize guesswork in screening candidates for a job, GTI follows a process that has proven to be effective. This involves coming up with the profile or set of skills and qualities required by the job and comparing the actual profile of a candidate against it.

When recruiting sales crew for a client airline, for instance, GTI Consulting began the process by studying the airline's best performers. It found out that they had some outstanding traits: they enjoyed routine, were thorough in their work and preferred to learn rather than talk. Armed with this knowledge, the company sprouted up the recruitment process and began its efforts at candidate-search this behavior profile and the corresponding competencies.

"When you are evaluating a person, you want to know if he can do the job, if he will do the job and if he will fit into the organization," Rustiah illustrates.

A wide range of psychometric profiling tools are part and parcel of GTI Consulting's search and selection services. Backed by a combined 30 years of executive search experience, the company principally examines the links of wrong hires by zeroing in on job specifications and analyzing behavior and competencies for the position. Only then will it screen candidates and use highly reliable assessments (described in www.gticonsulting.com) to match them against the needed qualifications.

In addition to IQ and the much discussed EQ (emotional quotient), GTI is also currently persuading companies to examine the AQ or Adversity Quotient of candidates, a quality that can be measured through scoring and interview processes. Defined as one's threshold for adversity and areas in combination with endurance and capacity for change and risk-taking, AQ has been singled out among the significant factor for success.

"The higher one's AQ, the more likely he is to achieve his goals," Rustiah quotes Industrial guru Peter Senge. In fact, studies have shown that AQ is often a better determinant of success than IQ, advises Rustiah.

Developed in collaboration with other human resource organizations around the globe, GTI's testing instruments are all designed to provide an accurate profile of the candidate. The assessments measure behavior style as well as value system, leadership dimensions, basic contributions among other factors. GTI's methodologies in updating itself to new findings is its build and coming up with tools to apply these differentiate the company from other consultancy firms—even the big gun multinational players in the region.

THE INFINITY pool in La Finca

If you don't want to build a house, tend a farm first

LA FINCA Farm and Country Resort is a high-end community that tries to endear urbans living in a suburban setting.

Sales and marketing director Lisette Balthazar says this element makes La Finca a cosy-and-kind undertaking. "Part of the residential aspect of the property would be the farm management. With the present economic times, if one let buyers to choose not to put up their country homes yet, they have the option to devote their whole lot into farming. We do the initial planting, tend to their lot and even sell their produce in the market for an extra income from their end. Works for all of us as it motivates our farmers from the pool to abating scheme, making our farm self-sustaining. This is something unique with our project."

La Finca prides itself as a development that has control-minded and realized estate living as a suburban setting. The 16-hectare, idyllic enclave farm resort situated in Lipa, Batangas, has "weekend getaway" written all over its 127 lots, offering country-style treats, quality socio chance to have their antecedent real for farming purposes.

Balthazar says buyers need not pay extra for such services, unlike other developers who ask for P500,000 to P1 million just to prepare a lot for farming. One still has to pay separately for farm management. She shares that La Finca's farm management is inclusive with every lot purchased.

"Once we sell the lot to the buyer, we ask them what choice of vegetables. Some of them are restaurant owners. The produce will be for their use. We present them with a feasibility study so we can to them. We bear the cost of initial planning. We assist the farm buyer to be self-sustaining. Their payment is as well be in the profit sharing," she explains.

The profit-sharing scheme lets her owners earn monthly income, as La Finca has several to cope with hotels and weekend markets in upscale subdivisions. This farming aspect has been one of the many attractions that discerning buyers have cited. One such buyer is particularly happy of this and the site's inspiring environment.

Last March guests glimpsed and sampled La Finca's newly completed country club facilities, as well as harvested crops from its vegetable gardens.

Jemaica Reyes, president of Marie France Services, and Facial Care Center beauty salons, purchased two lot units about five months ago after being won over by La Finca almost immediately. Its family and friends were the first ones to try out the already-operational swimming pool and gym.

"I told them that it would be best if they could come. They would appreciate it if they get a firsthand view of the place. It's a very special place where you could have a family get and enjoy country living and share convenience in a very reasonable price. It's also accessible to trains of future investments. It's worth it," Reyes confesses.

La Finca is owned by Subdivisions Construction Inc. For inquiries, call 403-8588, 886-4004 to 06 or 0920-9999, fax 885-9082, or visit www.lafinca.com.ph.

Sugar in coconut shells to sweeten markets abroad

POLANGUI, Albay—Sugarcane has been the most dominant crop planted in almost all villages in this town. There is no wonder, therefore, that this town has been known for its delicacy (in Tagalog), the oldest bird delicacy since 1888.

Bakunoy is made from hardened sugarcane juice and coconut milk placed in a coconut shell. It is usually sold one during Biseta, Holy Week, summertime, Christmas and other seasons for gathering. Bakunoy is sold at P20 a piece during summer, and P30 up to P35 per piece during lean months.

Demand for bakunoy comes from all over the country making "bakunoy making" the most practiced and profitable industry in the local region. And employment farmers of Polangui believe it's time to export it because of the demand in some countries.

Industry members are calling the attention of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Science and Technology to push the product abroad.

Uses

Primarily used as a sugar substitute in the preparation of native delicacies, it can be used to prevent native glutinous rice based snack food (cross between a doughnut and a brownie), champorado and binalay, bukayo (sweetened coconut meat) and bibia (rice cake).

As a sweetening and binding agent, bakunoy is used in the preparation of peanut and pili candies.

It is also used as a refined sugar for milk, chocolate and coffee, it is sweeter and healthier, as it is less diabetic.

In rural areas, pure bakunoy is also used as a cured-alcoholic dessert.

When combined with processed cassava, **bakunoy produces** a very popular aromatic confectionery locally known as suman (cassava cake). Suman is made of rooster milk, sugarcane juice and pili kernel. It is used in rice cakes and even as a cocktail filling.

According to Andy Sumayaon, Polangui chief executive and planning officer, Tanduran and foreign tourists who frequent Albay have been patronizing it for so many years because it is naturally processed and there are no preservatives.

"Scientifically speaking, refined sugar and bakunoy as commodities are somehow different and opposed in energy and nutrients produced. As to calorie per 100 grams, refined sugar has 387 calories while bakunoy has 361. Well, it's not that far, but for protein per gram and ion per gram, it seems bakunoy is better since it is able to produce 1.2 protein and 0.5 iron, while refined sugar has hardly any protein and at zero iron content," Sumayaon claims.

Sumayaon adds that these nutrients still depend on whether bakunoy produced is of amber or lighting type.

Amber is a type that has that rich

KALAHAY-HAKING Althea Lheng was to go before the exports market samples it has—the industry is curbing—almost going overseas.

taste, darker mass and lighter in color compared to lighting.

Native delicacies cooked with amber-yield more gummy and tasty products than those made using the lighting type.

"Amber is best accustomed to be a very first-class or world-class type of bakunoy. Most upland farmers here have been planning for its maximum supply, if ever it is ready to be exported to countries like Europe, Asia and America," Sumayaon says.

For bakunoy processors in Polangui, the end type where the maximum is grown determines the quality of bakunoy produced.

In general, sugarcane grown in areas with clay will produce the amber type. Typically, amber represents a native 10 percent of the total bakunoy produced in the area.

Upland communities are considering bakunoy production as their prime rural enterprise.

It is their main source of livelihood. Production can be down year round.

Sugarcane is the dominant crop planted in Barangays Banabo, Comon, Pinit and Bitaogan in this town, covering some 328.50 hectares (ninth only to some 2,114 upland farmers.

The success and improvement of bakunoy production as a means of livelihood is also attributed to the cleaning program under coconut trees introduced by Philippine Coconut Authority provincial manager Alfredo Rillo in the '90s.

The chances of this product to be exported was further boosted by Bonifacio Bonquines, a Tawid Isla Coco-based System executive grass by no less than President Macapagal-re-

(continued on page B3)

Living in Dad's shadow (and not minding it)

TEAM and Maxima Ayala on their wedding day June 4.

together every second Christmas," he says.

His mother, meanwhile, is based in Davao and busy with her church duties, but she travels frequently to be with her children and 11 grandchildren.

"She has been a major influence on all of us as well, and constantly reinforces Dad's example," says Fred.

Fred regrets that the grandkids did not have a chance to get to know their grandfather. They were born after he started to succumb to his illness, and the siblings can pass on their father's legacy to them.

Furniture and footwear: Tale of two industries

From page B1

cluster at the higher end. Meanwhile, wooden furniture export sales had overtaken rattan furniture. In the year 2000, Philippine furniture export to the United States amounted to $123 million, $106 million of which were wooden furniture, $67 million rattan, $13 million metal and the rest made of other materials. Exports to Europe reached $52 million, while Japan absorbed another $34 million. Total exports to the world stood at $308 million. The Philippines was ranked the sixtieth (sixty-first in household furniture in the world. Curiously, the Philippines started importing huge volumes of furniture from abroad, but mostly at the lower-priced categories.

Even then, the Philippines has earned the reputation for being the "Milano of Asia" from international furniture buyers. Philippine furniture exporters have become very innovative and quality conscious. Two furniture industry clusters are leading the charge—Cebu and Pampanga. Furniture exporters have participated in international exhibitions wherein their unique and artistic touches (combining wood, wicker, metal, brass, rattan and other materials,) showcase the artistic talents of Filipino designers and exploit the talents of furniture craftsmen. Manufacturing technology is being combined with fine art. The more sophisticated exporters have, in fact, shifted their strategy to the aesthetic marketing of furniture, while importing the basic wooden parts from other countries. There is definitely more money to be made in gold-leafing or "antiquefying" furniture rather than manufacturing it.

Looking back, the Philippines did not use its raw material advantage in the 1950's or the 1970's to export furniture. There was some money to be made in logging. But now that local logs are almost gone, the Philippines is missing brightly in the global scene as a quality purchaser of fine aesthetic furniture. Today, the majority of Philippine wood on the high end of Philippine lines, compared to China and Vietnam, comes as rattan or wicker furniture.

Fall of the footwear industry

In stark contrast, the Philippine footwear industry, with its traditional base in Marikina, is falling precipitously. This area largely caused by rising imports from China, which more than quadrupled from $4 million to 1998 to $17.3 million in 2003. Total Philippine imports of footwear stood at $51 million in 2003. Philippine shoe exports, largely composed of non-leather athletic and casual footwear, slippers, sandals, shoe parts and

others reached its highest at $179 million in 1994 but were down to $94 million in 2000. The future appears bleak as imports to the are scheduled to go down further.

Footwear manufacturers, who supply the local footwear industry, have lamented the drastic drop in sales to local shoe makers. Marimelda Tannery Corp. revealed that the local shoe industry only accounted for 30 percent of its sales, as compared to 80 percent before the Chinese imports began flooding the market. A shoe store operator owner confirmed the rapid fall of local shoes.

The Philippine leather footwear industry is considered labor intensive vis-à-vis the more professionalized and capital intensive industry player countries. Each "would-be bodily if 29 fit out of the 500 plus enterprises in Marikina are in par with global technology." Local leathers is of poor quality while imported materials and shoe accessories are expensive. The footwear distribution system is controlled by a few powerful Chinese companies. The shoemakers who avail of credit from these deem the high cost of money.

Only a few large players in the industry such as SPC GOLD, OTTO and ITTI survive in spite of the on technology. The manufacturers who are searching for China cutthroats are targeting relatively modest capital. These include stylish men's footwear, dancing shoes and slides. Don't school shoes. Some big companies rely on their own shoe outlets to escape the middleman's stranglehold. A top shoemaker is pioneering with a footwear manufacturing cluster which promises large volume contracting arrangements.

Future directions

The Philippine footwear industry will most likely lose out to China in most produced shoes. It will have to go the route of the furniture industry, which is its conscious technology with owners styling and move up to middle and high-end customers. Special marker orders, which favor the blending of solid craftsmanship with superior manufacturing methods, will be the way to go. Many of the small shoe firms in Marikina will die but the few that do survive will modernize and shape their own marketing destinies. The Philippine furniture and footwear industries are better off following the Italian concept of concentrating on design and quality production. Positioning in the Philippines as the "Milan of Asia" is an excellent proposition. But the furniture and footwear industries must improve their designing capabilities, use business-sourcing, technological capabilities and labor productivity. Doing all is well-heeled elements is a way in the right direction.

(The author is the former dean of the Ayala Graduate School of Business)

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Sunday BIZ

Furniture and footwear: Tale of two industries

By Eduardo A. Pilarski, Jr.
Contributor

GLOBALIZATION. Liberalization. Deregulation. These are words that terrify many Philippine entrepreneurs. But not others. Essentially they mean the free flow of global trade by reducing tariffs, quotas and other forms of protectionist measures.

They also mean the lifting of laws and regulations which prevent businesses from competing freely. The playing field is leveled. Exclusive franchises, concessions and privileges give way to free markets.

In this context, we examine the fate of two Philippine industries—furniture and footwear. Why is the furniture industry surviving and thriving in this globalized, liberalized business environment while the footwear industry suffers severe competition, or collapsing?

Furniture exports

Thirty years ago, we submitted a research thesis on the Furniture Industry. Back then, most furniture makers catered mainly to the local market. However, rattan and wicker furniture were already being exported. As for wooden furniture, many manufacturers had problems with the technology of dehumidifying the wood in order to meet the requirements conditions of the United States and Europe. Much of Philippine wood was being exported as low value logs, plywood, veneer and veneers. The thesis hinted the factors like drying facilities and the adoption of modern technology to improve quality and increase productivity. There were just a few firms who attempted to export wooden furniture, achieving varying levels of success.

By the 70s, most Philippine wooden furniture exporters had learned to meet the humidity factors, learn more exacting formulas to the American market, with the adoption of sophisticated furniture and fixture equipment. Wooden furniture exports grew while rattan furniture climbed even faster. The biggest factor to the ballooning of that time was the fledgling supply of wood and rattan. Earlier, in 1970, the Marcos government instituted the export of rattan poles to preserve them for higher value furniture. By the late 70s, the government was encouraging entrepreneurs to plant fast-growing trees like gmelina to reforest the countryside to the seventies. Philippine furniture makers were losing international furniture fairs and getting exposed to trends in design, manufacturing methods and raw materials/substitutes.

The Philippine furniture industry realized that it was futile to compete against cheaper furniture mass producers like Taiwan. Philippine wood furniture makers were forced to move up market. Some relied on their unique Philippine styling, capitalizing on the "Filipino" look of local wood species, complemented by other indigenous materials. Others stressed the volume production of hand-carved furniture.

By the late 80s and the early years of the century, the Philippine furniture industry had blossomed into a global competitor, par-

CONTINUED ON

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chela Bautista Florencio

CHEFS DU JOUR. American food and wine expert Kelly McBarney and MP's culinary guru, Margarita Fores

Sippin' and suppin'

Text by Margie Baja-Reyes
Photos by Randy Nartatez

One of the oldest rules in fine dining is that you should harmonize your choice of drink with your choice of food. But chefs and their attendant sommeliers have loosened to hack the rule.

"If you want to talk 'rules' of wines and food pairing, the oldest one in the book is red with meat, white with fish or food," said renowned American food and wine expert chef Kelly McBarney, who was in town recently to promote California wines on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency that has taken pains to ensure the highest standards of quality for American wines worldwide for export worldwide.

"In reverse years we've gotten [rules] and here and it's okay to have [those] Rules: switch to a light and white, or even Merlot with seafood," McBarney added.

Now the only hard-and-fast dictum of wine drinking is to choose something you enjoy.

"Many people unconsciously believe that they will ruin the whole meal if they make a wrong wine choice. You see, it's impossible to ruin a good meal if you select a wine that you enjoy regardless of what the wine experts say," explained McBarney.

Filipinos don't usually pair up wine with their meals. But, believe it or not, it

MIKE Whitney, agricultural trade office director of the United States Department of Agriculture.

CHEF'S duo of pork. Pares' Sinigang of Buara Lechon, Bataan Suso and Ilipit Watermelon, and Mallarney's Braised Pork with Mulled Cabbage and Leeks, Caramelized Spam and Spiced Apple Sauce. Columbia Crest Sauvignon Blanc complements the pork dishes.

'Sinigang' with Sauvignon Blanc, 'bangus' belly with Chardonnay. Who says Pinoy dishes don't go well with wines?

PINOY-FRIENDLY WINES. Rioja Vallejo vineyards in Cuellar via produces some of the most luscious wines in the world.

A PERFECT FINALE. Mallorn Lava Chocolate with Cabernet Curd, Macerado Strobes and Sauvignon Blanc Gastrique

Sippin' and suppin'

Pronouncage C2

or not, Pinoy dishes positively go well with wines. One reason is that Filipino cuisine, like Italian and Spanish cuisines, has a strong flavor.

This was proven true during a recent gathering of wine and food connoisseurs at Pepato in Greenbelt, where Mallarney and Margarita "Gaita" Pares treated up to create an array of traditional and contemporary dishes to match with American wines.

"We Filipinos are used to dishing down our food with aroma," said chef Pares, one of the country's top culinary experts. "But wine is your best bet if you want to enjoy a good meal."

Culinary treats

The wine-and-food-tasting event was a delightful treat for wine lovers and foodies. Guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch, with the chefs having so much fun preparing and cooking for people eager to try them out.

Almost everyone sampled the different labels of Pinoy-friendly American wines. Affectionate praised generous servings of various types of wine into an endless spoon of glasses. A different wine was served with each dish.

Aperitifs are supposed to get your appetite going. Thus, the first wine served at the afternoon was Woodbridge White Zinfandel 2002. It had a light to full-body berry-like flavor. It was also sweet, smooth and easy to drink. Many guests asked for a second glass.

On individual plates, guests were served small bites of the food. The Chef's Duo of Pork was the first to grace the table.

Pares' sinigang of roast lechon with a chunk of ripe watermelon and **served with lemon fruit perked up** everyone's palate. Because it is beef, guests feel with a large bowl used to serve dishes.

"Being an Ilonggo, I grew up using bersan as a souring ingredient for stinging, our comfort food. I also added ripe pakwan which, not everybody knows, perfectly blends well with the sourness of the dish," said Pares.

Accompanying Pares' stirring sinigang was Mallarney's braised pork on **a bed of mulled cabbage and leeks**, with caramelized spam and spiced apple sauce.

Light white wines were **served to** today tastes were allowed to match the pork dishes. The Columbia Crest Sauvignon Blanc and Kendall-Jackson Sauvignon Blanc Vintner Reserve 2003 were served second the house.

"The food and wine can interact perfectly, creating a sensational taste experience that is greater than the food or the wine alone," said Pares.

Light- or full-bodied?

Sour curve Pares' Pan-fried Sangue Bella with Chardonnay from Delay Creek Pay, Kamias Bellida and Crab Cured Inglorini.

Who could resist Sangue Bella? It was further made heavenly by adding silver sauce on the side.

The Chardonnay (both red the pan- **to make the dish look a bit better** but enticing, which also characterized **the wine that went with it, a Heritage** Stone Cellars Chardonnay 2003.

CHEF Mallarney's Jumbo Prawn Cioppino garnished with Kendall-Jackson Pinot Noir.

A TRIPTE of US beef. A glass of Glass Ellen Merlot harmonizes with Pares' Beef Steak Tagalog (using US angus tenderloin) with Vegetarian Laing Rath, Young Coconut Shreds and Ginger Red Bagnio Mountain Rice Flak and Mallarney's Roasted Beef Tenderloin Stuffed with Garlic Spanish and Mushrooms with Truffled Mash.

From California came Mallarney's Seared Blue Marlin and Jumbo Prawn "Cioppino" with Copia Pink Rice and Ingredelle in Hearty Tomato-Herb Stew.

This typical-Manito had a large array of accompaniments, starting with sautéed spinach and fennel, a mildly spicy cioppino sauce, mussels, clams, and, finally, large tiger prawns. The cioppino sauce was a mix of fresh tomatoes, red peppers, mushrooms, red wine, garlic, onions and herbs.

Pinot Noir was a good pick for Mallarney's tomato-bodied stew. The Kendall Jackson Pinot Noir Vintners Reserve 2002 has been described as velvety, silky spicy and a bit smoky.

"Select light-bodied wines to pair with these food, and fuller bodied wines to go with heartier, more flavorful dishes," advised Mallarney.

Pinot Noir works beautifully with the fish because it's a light-in-light match. Otherwise, a full-bodied, heartier wine will overpower a light, delicate dish. Similarly a lighter wine will not even register on your palate of flavor meter if you sip it with a hearty meat.

Red meat—specifically US beef—highlighted the day's foodfest.

Pares baked our Beef Steak Tagalog (using US Angus tenderloin) with Vegetarian Laing Rath, Young Coconut Shreds and Ginger Red Bagnio Mountain Rice Flak.

Mallarney sautéed Pares' traditional Pinoy dish with his Roasted Beef Tenderloin Stuffed with Garlic-Spinach and Mushrooms with Truffled Mash and a California Cabernet Sauvignon Reduction.

Red wines with depth, body and pronounced flavors, such as Glen Ellen Merlot, Cocktail Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon, Heritage Stone Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 and Kendall Jackson Cabernet Sauvignon Vintner Reserve 2000, complemented the hearty meal.

Merlot usually comes in medium-to-dark ruby color with a fruity flavor, while Cabernet Sauvignon, dubbed the "King of Red Wines," has a deep red color, strong flavor and aroma.

To cap the wonderful meal, Pares and Mallarney presented melt-in-your-mouth Molten Lava Chocolate, served with Cabernet Curd, Macerado Strobes and a Sweet Red Wine Gastrique.

"Wine drinking should be fun. We should not become the ones makes our food more enjoyable and the alcohol makes us feel good," concluded Mallarney. "I still cite what's my favorite wine. I'll always say it's the one before me."

E-mail the author at chupa@inquirer.com.ph

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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See Still Sun on Page 44

SWEET AFFAIR. The Bustle clan of Atracio in Ceramics from Pampanga

It is quite flattering to note that aside from possibly ending up as tinapa wrappers, my columns could also be put to good use as a basket weave

SOME members of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines who participated in the Mindanao Silk project.

RAYA Manangkil and Vicky Garchitorena

JUDY Bonoan and son

FURNITURE maker Lawrence Jalandoni

Pinoy design creativity is tops

STILL on an African high, I went to the Manila FAME International featuring the latest styles and designs of ingenious Pinoy arts and crafts. It was surprising to see that some of the items had traces of African colors and designs. I met a lot of talented artists who use unique materials indigenous to our country. Local materials still give us a competitive edge, hopefully enough to offset cheap labor in China and India.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The stylish, gabby proprietors of Filipa Mokat, Micky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, invited me to view the product showcase they did as merchandise consultants. Both took inspiration from nature, wellness and spring, the theme of this exhibition's show. The dynamic duo worked doughnuts for days and came up with a refreshing and graceful display of Filipino's remarkable artistry and craftsmanship.

After arranging with Micky to hook me up with the company that makes life-size wired giraffes (my infatuation ever since minimal is a height issue, I believe), Chito led me to this artisan who wanted to share the business of the basketful she uses.

The unusual material used to make her baskets was newspaper. The Baguio basket weaver, Caridad Willy told me she only uses old business newspapers because of the quality of the paper and the fact that the ink does not smudge as much. She was once offered by a Chinese merchant to pass on her skill to his laborers for large heaps of cash, but in a touching display of nationalism, she refused the offer in order to protect her workers. It

(more)

WHAT I, Inday manufacturers Bert Nadjo, Daisy del Rosario and Rob Van Reisen

Still-stylish Rocky Cuna and Eloy Cuenca

HAPPY reporters Mia Lucero and daughter Ellen

FANTASTIC Ferns Hubert gurus Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre

TALENTED duo, Liberto Cheriquito and Miguel Prado, Jr.

CAMILLE Campo

JAN Alampay, reporter to Ralph Lauren Home

BASKET weaver Caridad Willy

COOL COUPLE. Paolo Perales and Mylene Dizon

VICKY Belo with Philip Cruz

BONBON Jimenez and Chara Santos

FILM executives Cedie Vargas and Ralph Walker

SINGER Kitchie Nadal and Rosa Cruz

TV beauties, Pinky Webb and Carmina Constantino

EDU Manzano and Angela de Leon

BUBOY and Liben Virata

PHILIP and Chandra Reyes

FRESH FACES. Bryan Prieto, Tara and Harmon Linton, Ina Raflos

Pinoy design creativity is tops

was so inspiring to know that aside from her personal newspaper everything program, she is also helping to sustain jobs for her Filipino staff.

It is quite flattering to coon that aside from possibly ending up as tinapa wrappers, my columns could also be put to good use as part of a lovely souvenir container. I still must mind my list my extra copies of bounces for her international deeds.

New silk

Our country has so many fabrics and materials that are solely made here. Last Thursday, an additional variety was officially launched together with Ayala's 176th anniversary. A fashion show featured the new Hinabaan silk by the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines. Unfortunately, I was still jetlagged from a European vacation so I missed the show, but Lebza Cargos, one of Elizalde's Manila bruncheuse, told me the creations were outstanding. Models stood on lit mini-plinths to accentuate the intricate details and amazing colors. I still check down one soon so I can borrow those micro-mini outfits, which are perfect since they are knee-length on me.

Handling the silk show was Vicky Bandelmonte. As a noble scam, they loaned money to farmers to buy looms and produce silk. There is nothing better than positive shopping since it benefits these farmers in the long run.

Bags of creativity

We are also proud that a Pinoy has established himself in the New York bag market. Rafe Interagan's bags have been featured in "Sex in the City" and we all know that puts Rafe in the same league as Manolo Blahnik. After all, as everyone knows, this show was always a fashion forecaster and set so many trends in the Big Apple's city looks.

In a limited edition, Mia recently launched 10 Rafe bags that he designed with 10 supermodels and, electrifying individuals in mind. I am proud to be one of the "chosen" ones. The bag named "Rosie" is, of course, the most limited and coveted one.

In the music world, the Philippines will never run out of talent. As the opening of Univ. in its new location in the MIS-CBN building, several powerful artists performed and I didn't even recognize half of these budding singers. Long gone are the days when one could get by with just a pretty face. Usually the prettier the better to mask a screeching voice. Today, the same pretty face comes along with a smashing figure and beautiful voice. God's been giving out more lately.

Rich was packed. I was dancing with my cousin, Cedie Vargas, of the Lopez group, and was asking her for names of the people I was taking pictures of. To my horror, she promptly introduced me to Gio Alejandro, the new president of ABS-CBN. But Gio was so nice about the entire thing, telling me how he knows my husband Dennis from their Princeton Gamble days.

Rich received EJ Lichon and Philip Cu-Unjieng are so excited with their new investors. That night had a fantastic samples of the artists they will be featuring like the Akadellas and Rivermaya. ABS-CBN big boss Gabby Lopez, who is rarely out than late, left the party at 4 a.m. What have been the total fun entertainment.

I was so happy to come home to an buoyant headline that our economy grew 5.4 percent, so much so that it has put a huge of optimism in my writing. If you haven't noticed, lately, I joked up that cops at the Woodshirt airport, just as Lufthansa was boarding. Nice to see a familiar paper beside the Spiegel, which is just unreadable!

So I hope all of you are feeling chipper this Sunday. And remember, if you don't like the headlines, you can always learn how to use your newspaper to weave baskets!

E-mail me at angelm.sun@inquirer.com.ph.

CARY Lopez and Chit Guerrero

FOGO King and Queen Berg and Rikki Diaz

ACOUSTIC musicians Pido and Paulo Santos

MISS Earth winners with Philip Cu-Unjieng

WHAT'S BREWING? Maneleo Olives, Karen Reina and Gabby Lopez

DISH boss EJ Lichon and Trina Cu-Unjieng

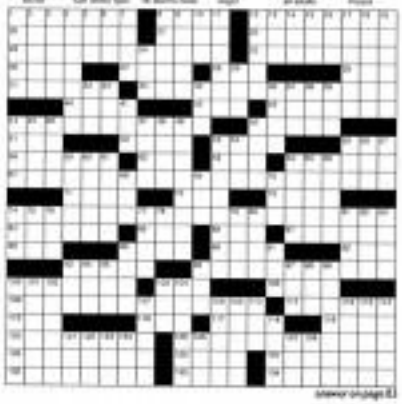
SEA PRINCESS with ABS-CBN exec boss Gino Alejandro

GREAT friends, Toby Kabuflo, Myrtle Mercat and Johnny Velasquez

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Donna J. Stone

"YOU'RE FIRED!"



answer on page E3

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Inquirer

Sunday LIFESTYLE

'Doon po sa amin'

By Joanne Zaguirre-Andrada
Contributor

Love your country. That country is the land where your parents sleep, where it spoken that language in which the chosen of your heart, blushing, whispered the first word of love, it is the home that God has given you that, by serving to perfect yourselves therein you may prepare to ascend to him.—Giuseppe Mazzini

NO one can truly pinpoint exactly when we stopped being proud of being Filipinos: home of no sin honest enough to admit that we 'never were proud to be Asians to begin with, let alone be known as brown-skinned Orcas.

If you find it curious for every time you have read, heard or said a depressing comment on our country and our people, you would have noted, like Bonaventa before you, enough for a one-way ticket to Canada where at least, a blue-collar job may be waiting for you. But no one can pin down a Filipino better than his fellow Filipino. With countrymen like us, who needs enemies?

Having observed our growing pessimism and sparing sense Leo Martinez persuaded us his fellow United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) commissioners to brainstorm on how to minimize damage. And to do it in Cebu! But there is still much to be proud of about our nation.

Simple question

Leo asked a simple question: 'Ano ang isang bagay, isa o grupo'o ay ipag kapi na proudly nating maipinakita?'

I recall reacting immediately to Leo's question by announcing, "The halo-halo of Guagua, Pampanga is without equal! It is made out of four simple ingredients and yet nothing has ever matched its exquisite flavor!"

Chair Meinchi Padilla recalled, "Lipa's lugang bumbo was so famous that it was well-known in Paris. In fact, Lipa itself was known as the Paris of the Philippines!"

Designer Inno Soto declared that the southern Filipino could, using indigenous materials, create the most beautiful, artistic object ranging from fashion accessories to decorative pieces.

To the language and accent of his hometown, Leo could not contain his enthusiasm: 'Hindi ngat Bulayan, Batangan Kung saan matatanto ang sarap' at sangkatik, mangat at huaang dinat ang Barrada ng Lechon (Cebu pa) at dinarayo ang ang ng Sapsiring (Bulacan). Maipagmamalaki ko'y sa ang mga dagat na pulitika at amin, ang saan kong dinilang Real ang halagat naming Real Mikasko at kalabayan Aso naming Real Cayetanos. Mmmmgo din ang aming sinang ng cashgate, pero at kasunod at mayamot ga ring kamang dadag na pawa ng kasuporgan.'

A Cebu-like Boholano, actor Eddie Mirasol proudly pronounced the isle of his province to be not only rich in taste but steeped in historical significance. He pointed out that to this day in Bohol, one could easily handle ube with the utmost respect because during World War II, the people of Bohol owed their survival to the humble root crop.

Ever true to her craft, Manila-bred Lisa Macuja Elizalde breathed her environmentally enthused ballet Manila as a troupe that the country could be proud of.

University of the Philippines professor Edru Abrahim shared that in his beloved Capiz's Wiley, it is common for a person to speak four languages. He added that they had the most varied terroirs of any region in the country—the broadest valley run through the mightiest river and three of the most awesome ranges which included the Sierra Madre, the mother of mountains west of the Cordilleras and south of Cagbalete range.

Within minutes of our personal manifestations, the room was charged with hope and bravado. That day we in Unesco gave birth to a pride campaign aptly called "Doon po sa amin."

In later days and meetings, members of other commissions enthusiastically shared their views, talents and resources to the cause. TV host Cheche Lazaro (Unesco Communications committee member) shared with the group her video library wherein thousands of footage on our country's tangible and intangible resources are kept.

Could this commitment to nurture ourselves pro-actively be rebellious in a nation that runs disappointment and disillusionment for breakfast...if people can at all? We will soon find out.

Test your cues

Through all forms of media, a central self be created wherein the various Unesco committees, with the help of Globe Telecom and other sponsors, will pose to the various this question: 'Ano ang isang bagay, isa o grupo na iyong lugar ang pumdo nang ipagmalaki?' Filipinos can submit their answers through text messages. Depending on the theme of the month, responses may be about food, persons, places, flowers, trees, fruits, animals, handicrafts, etc; anything in all that makes you proud. At the end of a designated period of time, those selected as the most interesting answers will be awarded prizes and featured on TV and print.

We hope that through the testing exercise, messages of local pride will override the countless text jokes and trumped-up cyber messages that have been the staple of our mental impressions.

It took several years to get us so disenchanted with ourselves. A single campaign certainly will not be enough to remove health in our psyche, but it is a start. We may be the source of our country's lethargy but we can also be the elixir of its renewal. No matter how excited our political, cultural or religious inclinations may be, at the end of the day we are all Filipinos. If we look into our hearts, we may come to realize that in spite of all our frustration and despair, we all know where home truly is—doon po sa amin!

SANTIAGO Pinto and Jessica Pinto (left) and Arts Council president Pedro Garcia (right)

EMBASSY Le Yin, Marissa Perreras, Spain's Consul General and Mrs Emilio de Miguel and Cecilia Rodriguez Villaroya

ISRAELI Ambassador and Mrs. Yehezkiel Sagiv(left) Victor Yacoov and Rut Bar

Jazzed-up celebration of Israel Independence Day

CEBU CEBU

Ashter Nicomedi

ISRAELIS Seeds of Sun jazz group came to Cebu for a performance at the Sth Terrace Cafe that drew a full house. Performers were **Marcus Klein** (flute), **Yoav Pelachek** (piano) and a woman, **Michal Cohen** (vocals).

Arts Council president Pedro Garcia and vice president Helen Tuazon hosted chair-reserved guests to a pre-concert reception attended by Israeli Ambassador Yehezkiel Sagiv, his charming wife, Rachel Sagiv, and Rut Bar, the embassy's first secretary and treasurer for cultural affairs.

"I'm delighted to welcome you all tonight," said Arts Council trustee Marissa Perreras before the performance.

Ambassador Sagiv, in his remarks, reminded us that the event was to celebrate the state of Israel's 56th anniversary as an independent state. It brought us back to May 14, 1948, when Israel was established in accordance with the United Nations Partition Plan.

For years before that, the Jewish population of 650,000 in the territory had organized a community with well-developed physical, social and economic infrastructure. The state has grown much since Today, Israel has a population of 6.7 million. It is predominantly Jewish, with Arabs Muslims, Christians and other minorities.

Long-standing friendship

In absence in favour of the artists, as well as Ambassador and Mme. Sagiv, at The Theater Room were other followed the performances. Seats were made to the acclaimed friendship between Israel and the Philippines, which dates back to that day in 1947 when the Philippines cast pivotal vote OK plan for the creation of the Israeli state.

Among the guests at the performance and the dinner was Spain's Consul General Emilio de Miguel, who arrived in Cebu that day with his wife, Maria Cecilia de Miguel. They are very happy to be assigned in Manila as Mary is from Bicol. Their two years before were assigned in Bangkok.

One of the first things Emilio de Miguel did in Cebu was visit the construction site of the Casino Español's new building (about to be completed). Eddie Gonzalez, from the building committee, received him and showed him around. Emilio is the grand inaugural on Oct. 9.

Talking art

Consul General de Miguel also paid a courtesy call on Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama. The two talked about many possible topics, especially culture. Vice Mayor Rama heads the city's Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission while Emilio has published a number of literary pieces.

In fact, would have a Emilio and Maria's visit to Cebu coincided with the 42nd birthday of my very agile and very ladies. Don Santiago Pierrard. He is fond to celebrate birthdays, saying he is not 100 yet. And to prove his point, he is a "streaker" on the special day, running only members of his immediate family which, in one can guess, keeps increasing.

This year he was prevented that he hasn't enough to accommodate all relatives, so he agreed to have a at the Casino Español's Concordia Hall. Emilio and Maria happily joined our family and invited Mrs. Rocio Castillo, who had come from Madrid and attended at a Mass of thanksgiving before dinner was served.

Before Pedro was in Cebu upon the instructions of the ambassador's granddaughter, Ana Maria Escalas. He is from Venezuela and is currently based in Madrid, at the international secretariat of the Universidad Alumnos Youth Movement.

Ana Maria has been studying there on a scholarship since 2000, and came home to Cebu for a visit. After she celebration she went to Manila for an international meeting then Madrid for another meeting. She will be back here on June 13 for two leaving spain for a July international to Canada at Chicago.

Cebu's own Vigan

In Cebu, Emilio and Maria were taken out in the Mactan Island. They found the accommodations excellent. They took the opportunity to visit the municipality of Carcar 47 kilometers south of Cebu City. It is the Vigan of the south, with its old houses and a heritage organization that is all set to restore the parish church to its roots.

Carcar is also famous for its chicken and sinugo chicharon. We bought a bag of the crackers, which are "deep-fried" in a crushed cube, complete with pig ear. That is not cooked in a diamond, shaped into bottle which is then wrung to remove excess. It was interesting how others are got in.

We went back to the city with enough time to get ready for a concert of the Manila Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPI) for its concert season. Ingrid Sala Immaculata was here for the concerto, and for the dinner hosted by Jose and Nenuca Sala at "Bogota Bob's Alta Cia concert.

This concert, and the one that followed that concluded the season, will be in future columns, along with some important activities on Cebu's cultural calendar for the coming months.

THE SEEDS of Sun jazz group from Israel is a sensation; only three performed in Cebu

Sacred Heart of Jesus is source of renewal

THE CATHOLIC Church will celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 18, the third Friday after Pentecost. The Apostleship of Prayer (AP) of the Diocese of Pasig-Antipolo under Bishop Jesse Mercado is preparing a grand exhibit of Sacred Heart images June 11-18 at the Mackinnon Art Center, Ayala Alabang.

A committee headed by Sheree Rivera, AP president, will display 12 life-size images. The exhibit will open on June 11 at 3 p.m. Bishop Gabriel Reyes will give a talk at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Jerome Emiliani Church.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart is widespread in the Philippines since it was introduced by the Jesuits in 1872. Almost every Filipino home has an image of the Sacred Heart, or even just a picture on the wall.

The first three Sacred Heart statues were blessed in Manila, La Concordia College and Colegio de San Isabel. The first parish centers were dedicated to Sacred Heart in Bataan province and Placencia Indiana in the Recoletos Dioceses in Mindoro.

Themes of this year's feast is "The Sacred Heart of Jesus: Source of Appeasement, Meaning Restored." The devotion to the Sacred Heart is an instrument for continuous renewal of consolation to Jesus. This is done through the daily morning offering.

The Apostleship of Prayer was set up in 1844 by Fr. Francois Xavier Gautrelet, spiritual director of a group of Jesuit seminarians in Vals, France, who were eager to join missions. Father Gautrelet pointed out that souls for the missions would be greatly enhanced through prayer, study, work and sacrifices if offered in union with Christ's sacrifice as renewed in the Holy Mass.

Daughters of Sacred Heart

Blessed Eugenia Ravasco founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in 1880 in Mexico, Italy. She grew up overtired, restless and social climber in Milan farewell to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The congregation's charism includes catechesis and the formation of youth through prayer and education.

In the Philippines, the order has its convent at 71 Sampaguita St., Sierra Grande Subdivision, Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City.

Call 822-0961 or write to the above address for information materials. Those who want to join the order can write to Sister Mariles.

Cathedral needs help

Msgr. Jack Jose, parish priest of St. William's Cathedral in Lucena City, is asking for help in renovating the church. St. William's Cathedral is where I was baptized, confirmed and had my First Communion.

It is a beautiful old church severely damaged by the earthquake in 1990. The roof has been removed.

Msgr. Jose wrote, "The Lucena Cathedral is one of the biggest churches in the province of Tayabas and in the Diocese of Lucena. It has a total floor area of 1,534.75 square meters. Its height... from the floor to the apex of the roof, is 16.40 meters.

"Unlike other big churches whose wooden rafters and trusses are exposed, this century-old church has a ceiling. Due to old, persistent and excessive termite infestation that has weakened the old and wooden rafters and purlins, it must be taken down. Almost 75 percent of its beams destroyed by moths and termites. The entire roof has sagged by more than a meter. And behind the whole roof might collapse and fall.

"A group of concerned engineers and architects offered their services free of charge to study the cathedral's condition. After more than a month of thorough study, they recommended that the roof be changed.

"Due to the unavailability of logs for wooden rafters and trusses, as well as the increased cost in prices, they proposed that steel be used instead. They assured us that the change in the original look, design and form of the church will not be affected. The total cost was estimated at P11 million. The parish, to date, has raised almost P3 million. Thus, we are now asking help from the Diocesan...

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Jimenez

BLESSED Eugenia Ravasco

SACRED Heart of Jesus

...continued to help in every Mass. Pls. Jack Jose at St. William's Cathedral, Lucena City 2550 or call 07-710-1049.

Rosary text

Please join the Rosary vow for Peace and remind by registering your name at cell phone (0927-212-1852).

Sto. Niño novenas

There are rituals to talk to the novenas of the Sto. Niño de Buenavista can call 0920-209-9472.

Pondering Peace

For Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, "murder" may mean liberation from poverty and divisive politics. The "Theology of the Crusade" will be the principle behind the program Pondering Peace that he will launch on June 13, the second day of the Intramuros pastoral assembly calendar.

The theology comes from a parable in the Bible about Lazarus, the beggar who longed for even just the scraps and crumbs from the table of Dives, a rich man who ate sumptuously. The beggar went to heaven while the rich man was subjected to the "torment of the endless world."

The speakers on the Pondering Peace program are 25-minutes talks. Bishop Rosales stresses that it is not Christ's time that we implement but what they're gonna with it is.

Encounter with Mama Mary

The Missionaries of Mary (M.O.M.) is by Marian community in the diocese of Cubao. Mama Mary's Encounter with Mama Mary."

The seminar will cover the following topics: Personal Vocation, Mary, Mother of God and Mary Mediatrix of Grace.

It will be held on June 19 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Holy Rosary Seminary.

The venue will be the Catholic Resource Center, Mount Hall, Pope's Bldg., corner Broad Roadway and Annex Building, on the back of St. Paul the Apostle Church along Timog Avenue.

Admission is free. Call the M.O.M. secretariat at 7410729 (look for Sister Lucy).

Proper way to wear jewelry

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dukes

DEAR Tita Dukes,

Recently, I attended a wedding anniversary party where five guests were all in formal wear. It was really enjoyable.

However, there was something that annoyed me—lady guests with their jewelry: One had ruby earrings and a pearl necklace. Another had dangling green earrings and a gold necklace with a diamond pendant.

May I ask about the proper way to wear jewelry? Were the lady guests correct in the way they wore their accessories?

SHEILA

The usual way is to match earrings with the necklace. However, times have changed, and you, too, have to be practical. Maybe the lady who wore ruby earrings with her pearl necklace was wearing a red and white dress.

Just remember, when wearing a sports dress, don't use dangling earrings.

Voracious patient

I'm a dentist, happily married with three children. I have many patients, including children. I don't have a secretary but I can manage.

My problem? One of my patients. She is a musician in her 30s. When she sits down she spreads her legs wide and holds my right hand as I treat her. She also looks at me with flirtatious eyes.

What really irked me was what she said recently, after me returning for treatment for more than a week. She said, "I'm sorry I couldn't see some hunk right away. You know how women are. There are several days every month when we could not be available." And then, as I started to treat her, she held my hand again.

I'll be through with her dental problems very soon but she said she would be bringing her children and spouse for treatment. She pays regularly and does not ask for a discount. What shall I do about that?

JOSEPH

Why don't you tell her to stop holding you because you might hit her gum instead of her tooth? Or maybe you should get a secretary to help keep security and to "chaperone" you. She/he can stand beside you when you are treating the patient.

One suggestion: But you have to think about this: It is to see her husband and ask him for a hunk. Tell him you want to improve your think-and-buy home equipment. He will likely refuse you and tell his wife to change clinic where your facilities are not up to par.

Having a patient like her suggests you are an attractive person. However, since there are two sides to a coin, maybe she is not happy with her husband.

E-mail titadukes@manilastar.net or send letter to 201 Star [201], Makati CPO 1261 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Ilaya and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Put your wedding on the Net

CELEBRATE an upcoming wedding with a special, one-of-a-kind website.

CelebrateOfAmore.com can give couples five choices in:

(1) share pictures of their love story and wedding; (2) share information about the wedding; and (3) create a remember-all menu of anniversaries before and after the wedding.

The idea is particularly useful when family and friends live in different parts of the country or the world, and many of them are unavailable to be present during the event.

CelebrateOfAmore.com is completely customized; no generic templates are used. The web designers will prepare the site in consultation with the couple in manner it is most convenient.

Celebrate Of Amore.com allows up to 300 images on the couple's website, or up to 300 separate pages. The couple can share practically their entire wedding album with their loved ones, or less than the cost of having an entire album reproduced.

Those who have gotten married already can have post-wedding websites.

Up to June 13, CelebrateOfAmore.com offers a special introductory rate with a 40-percent discount. Visit the website or e-mail info@celebrateofamore.com for inquiries.